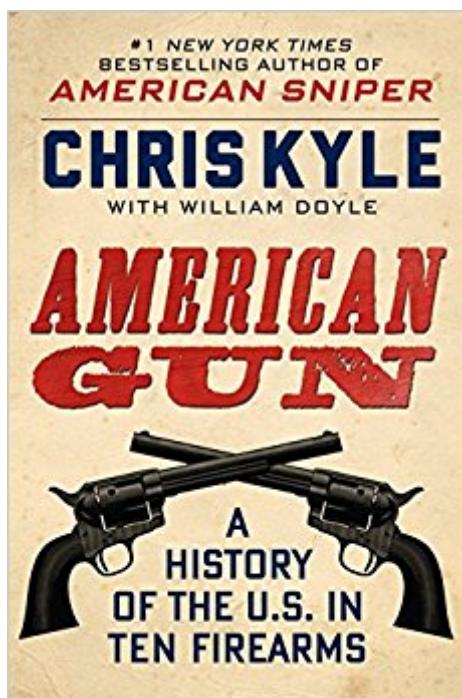


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# American Gun: A History Of The U.S. In Ten Firearms



## Synopsis

Chris Kyle—fallen hero and #1 bestselling author of *American Sniper*—reveals how ten legendary guns forever changed U.S. history. At the time of his tragic death in February 2013, former Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, the top sniper in U.S. military history, was finishing one of the most exciting missions of his life: a remarkable book that retold American history through the lens of a hand-selected list of firearms. Kyle masterfully shows how guns have played a fascinating, indispensable, and often underappreciated role in our national story. "Perhaps more than any other nation in the world," Kyle writes, "the history of the United States has been shaped by the gun. Firearms secured the first Europeans' hold on the continent, opened the frontier, helped win our independence, settled the West, kept law and order, and defeated tyranny across the world." Drawing on his unmatched firearms knowledge and combat experience, Kyle carefully chose ten guns to help tell his story: the American long rifle, Spencer repeater, Colt .45 revolver, Winchester rifle, Springfield 1903 rifle, Thompson sub-machine gun, 1911 pistol, M1 Garand, .38 Special police revolver, and the M-16 rifle platform Kyle himself used as a SEAL. Through them, he revisits thrilling turning points in American history, including the single sniper shot that turned the tide of the Revolutionary War, the firearms designs that proved decisive at Gettysburg, the "gun that won the West," and the weapons that gave U.S. soldiers an edge in the world wars and beyond. This is also the story of how firearms innovation, creativity, and industrial genius has constantly pushed American history—and power—forward. Filled with an unforgettable cast of characters, Chris Kyle's *American Gun* is a sweeping epic of bravery, adventure, invention, and sacrifice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Guest Review: Marcus Luttrell, author of Lone Survivor, reviews American Gun by Chris Kyle

Starred Review. Bestselling author Kyle (American Sniper) was putting the final touches on this discerning study of 10 firearms—completed by his widow and Doyle—that changed the course of warfare when he was killed at a gun range. Coupled with his goal of "talk history with the bullets flying," Kyle's picks—surefire debate fodder for gun enthusiasts—make for immersive reading as he recounts key battles during the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and WWII. Kyle's enthusiasm for his subject is infectious—even for professed doves—and his gift for narrative lends the stories the tension and drama they deserve. He brings to life the infamous shootout at the O.K. Corral and the Battle of Cowpens during the American Revolution, recounting close calls, colossal errors, and the weapons that gave one side a key advantage over another. Thanks to his experiences as a Navy SEAL, Kyle is intimately familiar with the construction, key features, and upkeep of all the featured weapons, which adds to his credibility and enables him to tell his stories in greater depth. Regardless of one's views on guns, readers will gain a deeper respect for weaponry and the people tasked with using them. (June)

As the reader saunters through the history of the US in this work you get a distinct feeling that you are sitting with a man who is your best friend, freshly returned from time travel into our past with fresh nuggets of easy stories on the real history of the country. Your only regret when you finish is the realization that the author is no longer with us - being taken from our continuing tale for reasons that we can not fathom. The foreword, by Chris Kyle's wife Taya Kyle, plunges you deep into the realization that we have all been cheated of further great works from this man - and if your heart does not stir when you go from foreword, introduction and into chapter one stop, get to the emergency room and get yourself on a transplant list. This book is simply spectacular. Whether we can feel the tension in a tree circa 1777, raw fear landing on the beaches of Dieppe with British Commandos (the irony is thick there....) or hanging on the White House range with Abraham Lincoln personally testing weapons to be manufactured for the Union armies the story is told in a style that brings you right into all the segments. Like a good chat with your brilliant uncle Mr. Kyle can really speak through his words on the page. Though the book claims "10 guns" there are far more in here. Just enough design details are forwarded to merit deeper examination but the story is far more

important - stretching from the founders of the USA to mobsters and their tommy guns (and its rehabilitation in WWII) to the ubiquitous M16 of the modern era we can see how deeply ingrained our evolution of guns has molded the country. As the epilogue states eloquently - pick up a rifle pistol or whatever gun of you choice and you are linked to the history of the US. We as the reader are blessed to have this work and we can remember that Chris Kyle was a true American patriot who wrote this simple Magnum Opus for us all to appreciate. We ask for more but it is for us to go write that history. Read this book at least twice and share it with all your friends.

This is informative based on the firearms selected and an easy enjoyable read. They explain why they picked the ten main firearms, though many others are mentioned, presented and acknowledge the lack of team weapons and shotguns.

Chris Kyle (and his wife Taya in Tribute to Chris) follows 10 of the firearms that helped not only settle America, but also to preserve the world's freedoms. Although I would have liked to see some other firearms highlighted (You would probably need to do the history on 20 or 30 firearms to get them all) this book gives the history of what Navy SEAL Kyle thought were the most prominent. SEAL Kyle dedicated and gave his life in the service of his country and the use of different weapons in that service. My personal salute to SEAL KYLE and his wife TAYA. SGM Kay W. Hargis, USA (Ret)

Being familiar with Chris Kyle's exploits as a sniper, I initially wrote off AMERICAN GUN as being nothing more than an expansion of his first book "American Sniper". I was wrong. Instead, Kyle put his expertise and passion for firearms to use and offers a lively, different perspective of American history. He selects ten American guns he believes were pivotal in the evolving of this country, from the Revolution to present day, and illustrates their role in that history. The finished product is an entertaining and vibrant lesson on how firearms are as American as apple pie and baseball. AMERICAN GUN proved to be an enjoyable read and a showcase of Kyle's talent as a storyteller. While the ten guns chosen (American Long Rifle, Spencer Repeater, Colt Single-Action Army Revolver, Winchester 1873 Rifle, M1903 Springfield, M1911 Pistol, Thompson Sub-machine Gun, M1 Garand, .38 Special and M16) are sure to be a source of argument (why one firearm was chosen over another), Kyle justified his choices with plenty of stories/accounts of the guns in action. Each chronologically sequenced chapter represents a particular firearm. Details of each gun are provided,

along with an explanation of why they were so important, how they were effectively used and what led to them being replaced by the gun in the following chapter. The accounts of the guns “in action” are entertaining and fun to read; Kyle adds emphasis throughout the book with personal asides/opinions to further illustrate the historical references he cites. The end result is an easy, fast read. I personally enjoyed reading the chapter on the “Wild West” and detailed account of the infamous shootouts and the guns associated with them. The chapters covering the twentieth century are obviously heavily associated with US involvement in World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam and many of the accompanying story-lines are Medal of Honor citations. AMERICAN GUN provides a different view of American history, not the run-of-the-mill recap of a timeline. The book provides constant action and it keeps the pace going from beginning to end. It is easy to sense the enjoyment and passion Kyle had writing this book as it is evident throughout.

I bought two more copies as gifts for some friends. I haven’t read American Sniper and don’t intend to. Though the movie featured some great performances the whole field of sniper autobiography doesn’t interest me as much as the historical perspective offered by more scholarly works. Chris Kyle here splits the difference masterfully, offering in a single readable volume a complete U.S. history lesson to be viewed through the evolution of firearms technology. We are indeed a nation built by snipers and shooters and too many forget that. Thank you William and Taya for bringing the book to completion.

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