

Printed Protection and the Future of Defense

Editor's Pick. Written by Jeffrey Tucker.

We crossed another milestone in industrial history last week. Over the weekend of May 4-5, 2013, the world's first handgun was printed on a 3-D printer. It was fired and it worked. The implications are dazzling for people all over the world. The printers will become cheaper over time. The files for printing can be distributed all over the world through the Internet.

And no government in the world is in a position to stop it.

That's not to say that governments won't try. "It's stomach-churning," said New York Sen. Charles Schumer of this remarkable innovation. "We're facing a situation where anyone — a felon, a terrorist — can open a gun factory in their garage, and the weapons they make will be undetectable."

A big advocate of gun control, his real goal is not to make the world a more peaceful place. He simply wants government to have all the guns and doesn't want to make it easier for you and me to get them. He wants to retain the present disparity of power between government and the people and senses that something is upsetting the balance.

Therefore, of course, he wants to amend the law to make printed guns impossible. If you haven't noticed, this seems to be the main thing government does these days. It puts barriers in the way of progress and tries to stop technological advance.

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