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**Shots Heard Round the World: International and Foreign Law as Mechanisms for
Interpreting the Second Amendment**

by

Scott Medlock

Abstract:

This article argues that Second Amendment interpretation should include an examination of international laws and constitutional norms. In recent years, the Supreme Court has increasingly turned to sources of foreign law to help resolve some of our nation's most vexing constitutional questions. Decisions that have expanded civil rights such as *Lawrence v. Texas* and *Roper v. Simmons* have relied on international norms in determining the content of American constitutional protections. This same analysis should be used to determine whether a constitutionally protected "right to bear arms" is granted by the Second Amendment. The United States is the only nation on earth with a constitutional provision resembling the Second Amendment, and no international human rights instrument recognizes a right to own deadly weapons. In the face of the right-wing's ferocious attack on common-sense gun laws, reference to international law could be a valuable weapon for progressive lawyers' arsenals.

To contact Scott Medlock, email campus@acslaw.org.