



INFORMATION SERVICES TEAM

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ARMY OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

The modern definition of 'militia' is a group of people organized or capable of providing paramilitary or policing service, namely:

- (a) Army reserve composed of part-time soldiers (organized militia).
- (b) A nation's able-bodied citizens who can be called upon to defend it (unorganized militia).
- (c) A non-government military force (private or public militia).
- (d) The national police forces in Russia and other CIS countries.

Thus the modern definition of militia (originally a 'body of soldiers') is distinct from full-time professional soldiers employed by governments. In modern times the militia normally serves to supplement a standing army (e.g., help it resist an invasion) and act as a safeguard against it (i.e., deter a military coup).

In some cases the 'enemies' against which a militia has been mobilized are political opponents of the government. Some so-called militias are in fact bands of criminals working for oppressive regimes as proxies, like the Janjaweed militias that helped the Sudan's government ethnically cleanse the Darfur region.

Militias were originally composed of males armed and trained to protect their community before the creation of standing armies and police forces. They generally consisted of every able-bodied male of military age (typically from late teens to middle age). As they were made up of ordinary citizens they would not oppress the people, who were in fact themselves, whereas standing armies are notorious for doing so.

Today the term has been corrupted by elites who want to redefine it to mean a small group of state employees like police and army reservists or a pool of

untrained and unarmed citizens who are merely eligible for military service (unorganized militia).

A distinction needs to be made between non-government private and public militias. A private militia is essentially a private army whose primary allegiance is to the private interest of the people who run it (invariably acquiring money or power), such as drug barons or extremists with an ideological, religious or racist agenda. A public militia consists of unpaid volunteers whose primary allegiance is to the public interest (much like volunteer fire brigades), not the private interests of the people who run them. Although a private and public militia typically have many similarities in structure and outward

appearance they are very different ethically, much like the difference between the FBI and the Gestapo.

These public militia groups are frequently depicted negatively by governments and media owners due to the implicit threat they pose to the security forces who protect these elites, even though most members simply want to participate in the defense of their community much as their ancestors did before the rise of standing armies and police forces, but are denied the opportunity to do so in a state run equivalent.

It must be said that the members of some public militias subscribe to conspiracy theories and hold bigoted views, as do some soldiers in standing armies, but depicting mainstream



"Militias, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves and include all men capable of bearing arms. To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them."

— Richard Henry Lee

members of public militias as dangerous rednecks reveals much about the inherently undemocratic and abusive nature of the elites who perpetuate these stereotypes.

We believe free adults have a social duty to join a secular public militia in order to deter tyranny and crimes against humanity like genocide. If there is no government run militia that such people can join (most government militias limit membership to a small proportion of the population) then they should join a non-government public militia, which should be secular in nature like Militie Zonder Grenzen. A faith based militia is rightly deemed a partisan private militia, which promotes the balkanization of a nation along religious lines.

KEY FACTS

- Origin: Antiquity.
- Original purpose: Protecting communities prior to the creation of professional military forces like standing armies and law-enforcement agencies.
- Contemporary purpose: Protecting communities, which would include supporting the government against domestic or foreign enemies of the People or opposing a government gone bad. Also acts as a deterrent to a coup. A democratic safeguard against tyranny and crimes against humanity.
- Key supporters: Libertarians, classical liberals and social democrats.
- Key opponents: Authoritarian statists of the left and right (red fascists and black fascists) who favor a standing army which has a monopoly of deadly force so it can impose the will of the government on citizens and readily eliminate those who resist (thus cow most people into submission).

PRIMARY SOURCES

The Founders' Second Amendment: Origins of the Right to Bear Arms, Stephen P. Halbrook, Ivan R. Dee / Independent Institute, 2008.

To Keep and Bear Arms: The Origins of an Anglo-American Right, Joyce Lee Malcolm, Harvard University Press, 1996.