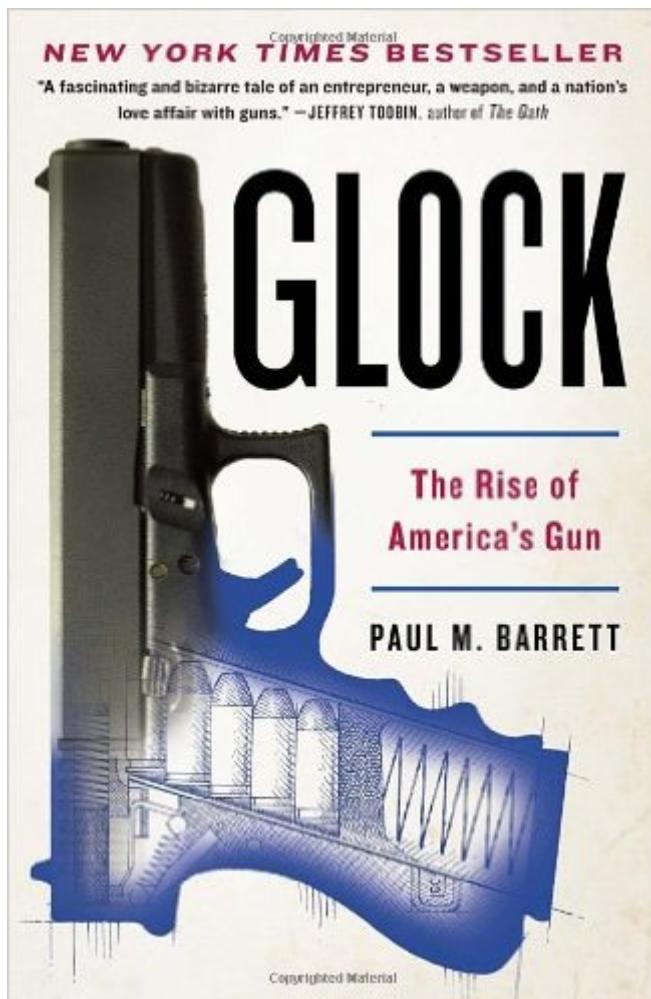


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Glock: The Rise Of America's Gun



Synopsis

The Glock pistol is America's Gun. It has been rhapsodized by hip-hop artists and coveted by cops and crooks alike. Created in 1982 by Gaston Glock, the pistol arrived in America at a fortuitous time. Law enforcement agencies had concluded that their agents and officers, armed with standard six-round revolvers, were getting "outgunned" by drug dealers with semi-automatic pistols; they needed a new gun. With its lightweight plastic frame and large-capacity spring-action magazine, the Glock was the gun of the future. You could drop it underwater, toss it from a helicopter, or leave it out in the snow, and it would still fire. It was reliable, accurate, lightweight, and cheaper to produce than Smith and Wesson's revolver. Filled with corporate intrigue, political maneuvering, Hollywood glitz, bloody shoot-outs and an attempt on Gaston Glock's life by a former lieutenant, "Glock" is not only the inside account of how Glock the company went about marketing its pistol to police agencies and later the public, but also a compelling chronicle of the evolution of gun culture in America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Glock is indeed a cultural phenomenon in America, and an innovative product (at least when it first appeared), with an interesting story behind it. So I was looking forward to reading this book. In some ways I was satisfied, but in others I ultimately disliked the book. My review is based on a pre-release sample of this book, so there is some chance that the published version is slightly modified, but I am sure that most of it will be the same. I hope you find this review useful. In a nutshell, the author manages to capture the story of Glock - the company, the pistol, and the man

behind it all. However, he also inserts a lot of commentary about guns in America which detracts from the story. **THE GOOD:-** You do not need any knowledge about Glock or firearms to read this book. The author describes in detail how revolvers and semi-autos work and how Glock is different. The book follows the major (and even lesser known) developments in the firearms market and legislation in the US throughout the history of Glock as a company. It starts with the 1986 Miami FBI shootout which precipitated the large-scale move away from revolvers towards semi-auto pistols. It covers things like the assault weapons ban and funny deals that Glock (the company) was involved in to try to buy back large capacity magazines and make a profit. Who knew that Rahm Emanuel, then a staffer in the White House and now mayor of Chicago, was involved in getting the major gun manufacturers to agree to voluntary safety locks? - Gaston Glock and the people around him are well described with vivid vignettes. For example, how even after he was financially successful, he would apparently collect those little sample shampoos from hotels.

As the satisfied owner of a Glock 23 I was immediately interested in this book. I had decided a couple of years ago to get my first handgun and wanted to make a good decision. In my research I read a lot and made a point to talk with as many policemen as I could get to talk to me. Out of all of my study one pistol clearly took the lead and that was the Glock. I had not really heard about the Glock before I started my research so this was all new territory to me. The major feature I heard over and over was its reliability; this came mostly from the policemen I had talked to about handguns. I even found that officers who did not carry a Glock were recommending that was the pistol I should get. I took that first step of buying the Glock and selected the Model 23 because it used the 40 S&W ammunition. This had better stopping power than the Model 17 which used the nine-millimeter ammunition many had told me. After that I signed up for classes and eventually got my concealed handgun license. So far the gun has been used only on a range and has performed flawlessly. When I saw the book on Glock was available I ordered it immediately; after buying and using the gun I have continued to hear many, many good things about this pistol and I was interested in more details about the gun and how it came to be. This book does a grand job of telling the story of the pistol and the man behind the pistol, Gaston Glock. The book actually starts with a description of an infamous shootout in Miami, Florida in 1986 where the FBI is outgunned by bank robbers. This disastrous experience was the catalyst for law enforcement agencies to shift from revolvers to pistols with much larger magazines.

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