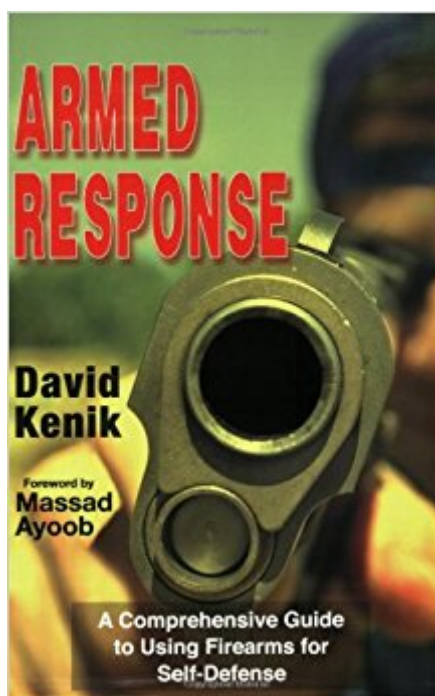


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# Armed Response: A Comprehensive Guide To Using Firearms For Self-Defense



## Synopsis

Armed Response is the best and most complete book of defensive shooting.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An excellent starting text for the first-time gun owner or the citizen just beginning to explore armed self-defense." --Massad Ayoob, Director, Lethal Force Institute  
"Armed Response is a must read for every gun owner." --Alan Gottlieb, Founder, Second Amendment Foundation  
"Armed Response is the best and most complete overview of defensive shooting that I have seen." --Ralph Mroz, Training Director, Police Officers Safety Association

David Kenik is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Police Officers Safety Association, a non-profit organization that offers enhanced training to law enforcement officers.

I was a little disappointed with this book. Not with the information, which I found to be very interesting, but the construction of the book itself is bad. Page 12 is printed in place of page 22 which is included as an afterthought on a single sided page just stuck between the pages like a book mark! I have great respect for Massad Ayoob who wrote the foreward and for the author, David Kenik. However I have little respect for a publisher who obviously did not read the pre-press proof. Again, good information, poor construction.

Secret knowledge? Not so much. Common sense? Yep, likely in abundance, right up to the point of editorializing at the end. This is a tough book to review, the subject is so charged politically. So starting off with the non-controversial stuff, mechanical production. The book was poorly published. Where page 22 should have been page 12 was reprinted. And insert page, smaller, was tucked in after the second page 12. Even it didn't line up with page 23. From that point forward there were several pages that never mated to the following or prior page. Certainly words, if not paragraphs were missing. This was disturbing as the book was recommended by my instructor and I really wanted to read what Kenik had to say. Everything up to the chapter on Gun Control was very good...5 star. Book production 1 star (it made it to print). I have no doubt that David Kenik is expert in this field. With the exception of chapter 32, I got a tremendous amount out of the book. I've been on this planet many decades, voted in dozens of elections and never once heard of someone elected or otherwise try to 'take my gun away', or my brother's or his girlfriend's. I was either pre-teen or early teen when I took a rifle shooting class at the YMCA. As a teen I had a .22 which is still around. I realize that sometimes bad things happen to good people. I also realize only fools go looking for it, see title of review. But sometimes it happens anyway. Since I've twice referenced chapter 32, let me comment on that. If nobody had guns, nobody would get shot. How can anyone argue with that? The operative word there is nobody. Nowhere in that sentence did it say good people. There are many people that should not, maybe never, be allowed to possess a weapon. I believe that is the point of the license and finger print and criminal background, mental health check. Simply put, that's the point of making it 'not easy'. Not easy is not the same thing as impossible. Getting a weapon that can kill from a distance because your, then current, girl friend has other prospective suitors, is a bad reason and pretty much goes to intent. Getting one because unknown person(s) are showing up at your residence with malice at 2am, and escalating, is a much better reason. The acquisition of this means of self defense and protection of life or property I don't believe anyone has an issue with. A girl friend is not property and anyone feeling that way is way more dangerous than a gun. My instructor was approached by just such a person. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. No issue there, but that is why some people shouldn't be allowed to have weapons that make the process easier. One last point, Assault weapons. I believe there are a class of weapon that, by their design, can be easily converted to fully automatic. There is an adage about perception becoming reality. If an AR-15 is perceived as more dangerous than a .22 and more sexy to the 18 to 30 'outlaw' type and can be converted to full auto easily, then the perception it is more dangerous than a .22 becomes reality. (a marksman with a .22 is far more lethal than a kid with a .44) And being in the liberal bastion of Massachusetts, one wouldn't expect it legal to own an AR-15,

yeah it really is so long as it meets a few questionable conditions. I am sure that doesn't do the rationale justice but I am equally sure it was not a couple of old dudes that like their Scotch old and women young that got together one evening and made that decision. Government is the collection of people we elect to make the rules. They don't always get it right, but they also don't always get it wrong. Chapters 1-31 are very good. It is unfortunate this is such an emotionally and politically charged area. If you want a reason to hate people with guns or hate the people that hate people with guns, skip 1-31 and go straight to 32. If you want to learn more about responsibly using one and understanding the mechanical, physical, legal and moral issues with having one, focus on 1-31. What scares me the most, is not the gun, but the person that sees this through the lens of vitriol, disgust, and loathing of those that don't agree with them....from either side. Defending one's life has no political affiliation. Adding chapter 32 did the author a grave disservice.

Good overall book. Not as good as anything by Ayoob or Spaulding.

No better book for the newbie. It's everything the NRA safety class covers as well as everything it doesn't but should.

What does a book have to do with workmanship? Plenty, when it is absent. For one thing, this book is replete with printing and/or proofing errors. A by no means complete list: text is missing on pp. 77, 79, 84, and 101; duplicated on pp. 81, 86; and p. 22 is entirely missing (instead, we get a repeat of p. 12). Minus one star from this review for these errors -- and I do feel I'm being generous. In addition, the author, to be blunt, is not a very good writer. You may be an expert in your field, but if you can't write in grammatically correct sentences, you need a competent editor. Otherwise, you'll only muddle your message and hurt your credibility. Subtract another star. Another annoying tendency was the author's use of incorrect laymen terminology. For instance, he consistently refers to loaded rounds (cartridges) as "bullets." Hey, guy -- the bullet is the thing that exits the barrel; a loaded round has other components too. Is it too much to ask that a how-to book employ proper terms of the field? For the most part, the author knows his stuff, although much of the information is rather elementary. But his opening advice to believe only half of what you read is most apt to his own book. Some of what he claims is highly debatable, if not actual misinformation. The most jaw-dropping to me was his claim about semi-auto pistols on p. 46: "In the last few years, a new fad of double/single-action triggers has become inexplicably popular." Forget the redundancy of using "fad" and "popular" in the same sentence; in a book copyrighted 2005, this claim is indisputably

false. DA/SA trigger systems have been very popular and readily available for at least the 40 years that I've been shooting pistols. To confirm my own memory, I consulted my old dog-eared copy of George C. Nonte's "Pistol and Revolver Guide" (1975). Nonte lists numerous DA/SA semi-autos, from makers such as Astra, Beretta, Heckler & Koch, Mauser, Smith & Wesson (including the Model 39, which I myself owned back in the '70s), and Walther. As Nonte notes about the latter maker, the Walther PP and PPK date back to well before WW II. What I can't find in Nonte's book -- and what seems a new fad to me -- are the DA-only pistols that Kenik favors. I'll put his preference for DA-only in the debatable category; I favor the old DA/SA triggers myself. In the highly debatable category, I'd place his advice to grip a handgun hard enough to make your fingers turn white when shooting near the top of the list. In 40 years, I've never heard any firearms instructor give that advice. How would you do that without inducing tremors in your hand and (probably) jerking the trigger? Kenik also advises to release a manual safety only after acquiring the sight picture. Meaning, your thumb motion will inevitably cause you to lose the sight picture, and you'll have to re-align your sights. I can think of a faster way to shoot without compromising safety. Overall, not a bad book. But I'd definitely advise waiting for a competently-written and -printed version before shelling out your money. I plan to ask for a refund due to all the defects.

There are many, many resources out there for those citizens that are considering carrying a weapon for personal or home defense. Many if not most of these have been written by current or former law enforcement officers and may contain tips and guidance that are not optimal for private citizens. This book is written by a private citizen who has attended extensive and exhaustive training from some of the best in the business, and is now offering his insight from "the regular civilian" perspective. I have read many books and periodicals on this subject over the past thirty years. I still learned quite a bit and had to rethink a number of ideas I had assimilated from other authors. In my opinion, this book is a mandatory addition to the reference shelf of any armed citizen.

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