

WITCHES AND GUNS: THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN WICCA AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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Wiccan philosophy itself aligns with the values of the Second Amendment. This Article is the first examination of the overlap between these two subject areas. This Article will provide a general overview of Wicca in Section II. Section III explores the philosophical and moral boundaries provided by the Wiccan religion, specifically the Wiccan Rede. Next, Section IV establishes the historical development of Wicca through founder Gerald Gardner's philosophy on individual self-defense with arms, militia service, and the ritual use of knives. Section V discusses modern philosophy on Wiccan self-defense, military service, and the continued use of ritual knives (athames). Finally, this Article considers and addresses objections from Starhawk. While Starhawk is not a Wiccan, she is an influential leader in the Goddess spirituality movement and Reclaiming Witchcraft. Even though Starhawk is a leader in a related but different religion, she is often cited as representing all pagans, especially pagans

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that worship the Goddess and practice witchcraft. Therefore, a complete examination of Second Amendment topics from a Wiccan perspective must address Starhawk's arguments and their inapplicability to Wicca.