THE tribune

QUOTE OF THE DO NOT WAIT; THE TIME WILL NEVER BE 'JUST RIGHT.' START WHERE YOU STAND, AND WORK WITH WHATEVER TOOLS YOU MAY HAVE AT YOUR COMMAND. AND BETTER TOOLS WILL BE FOUND AS YOU GO ALONG.

GEORGE HERBERT

White nationalism and gun violence are two sides of the same coin

The right of a people to bear arms should not be more important than the right to live in peace

ADAM JEFFERS

venues where he was meeting inal behaviour, without any psylives in less than 24 hours.

failure to introduce better gun glorifying violence. controls. One sign in Dayton simply read: "You are why."

ure to tackle white supremacy.

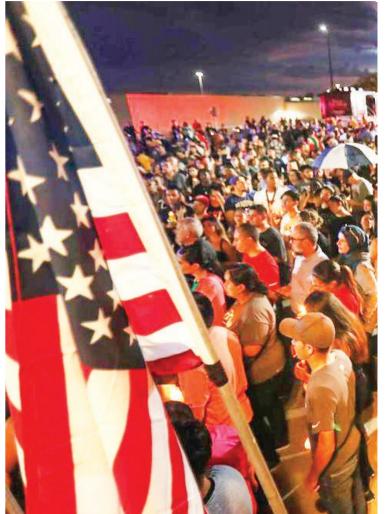
The 21-year-old white male a Walmart supermarket in El Pasoon the Mexican border allegedly wrote a manifesto filled with Civil War; one of the founding white supremacist language and fathers of the nation, Alexander hate aimed at the Hispanic com- Hamilton, was himself killed in munity. Meanwhile the alleged a duel to the death with his poperpetrator of the nine fatalities litical rival Aaron Burr in 1804. in Dayton, Ohio, a 24-year-old Texas law today still permits white male, was reportedly ob- the open carrying of a handgun sessed with violent ideologies.

followed that by saying: "Mental illness and hatred pull the trigger. s US President Donald Not the gun", drawing condem-Trump flew into Ohio and nation from mental health ex-Texas this week, protest-perts and accusations that he was ers lined the streets outside the making excuses for violent crimsurvivors and families of victims chiatric evidence to back them of two shootings that claimed 31 up. And instead of supporting gun control measures proposed Many held placards condemn- by Congress, he has instead suging his rhetoric for fuelling the gested reforms of mental health hate behind the attacks and his laws and blamed video games for

Mass shootings threaten to turn the country into a 21st cen-These demonstrators have tury powder keg. In the past few been joined by a phalanx of pol-months, the nation has been iticians and public officials in a shaken to its core by gun maschorus growing ever louder over sacres from Sebring, Florida, to these twin evils in American so- Gilroy, California, bringing the ciety. For while the US has long total number of mass shootings in wrangled over gun ownership the country to more than one per laws, the shootings have brought day. The last time mass shootings into sharp focus the nation's fail- reached such a frequency was 2016, which saw 382 incidents.

Gun ownership is enshrined in accused of killing 22 people in the Constitution, a legacy rooted in the very foundations of the US.

Gun violence dates back to the and allows two individuals to go Yet even as Mr Trump called toe-to-toe and settle their dif-



People hold a candlelight vigil for victims of the terrorist attack at El Paso in Texas

ism, bigotry and white supremathe violence and exploitation of tion whether our motto should watch the growing number of cy" in the wake of the attacks, he the natives who first inhabited actually be "in guns we trust". mass shootings with alarm,

for the country to "condemn rac- ferences in a street fight. Since American soil, one might ques- As the nation and the world

Foreign powers will keep vying for dominations

CON COUGHLIN

¬he most challenging part of the US-led coalition's involvement in the Syrian conflict was supposed to be the military campaign to defeat ISIS's so-called caliphate. Instead, now that ISIS has been defeated and the caliphate no longer exists, dealing with the many issues that have arisen in the aftermath of its demise is proving to be no less

For, as Syria's bitter civil war nears its endgame, with regime forces attempting to defeat the last remaining pockets of rebel resistance in Idlib province, the country is now becoming a battlefield in a wider struggle between rival powers, one that could lead to significant changes to the global landscape.

At the heart of this powerplay lies Washington's determination to ensure the protection of pro-Western groups, such as the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which did the lion's share of the fighting against the caliphate. To this end, a "buffer zone" that will afford gime-controlled Syria.

suspicious of any arrangement Syria. that allows the Kurds to run their the entire country.

dicament came to the fore this as the YPG, which has received concerns, while the Americans partners to take on the mission membership of the Nato alliance,



The US is wary of making the same mistakes in Syria as it did in Iraq more than a decade ago.

Washington is trying to set up US defence secretary, issued a element in the SDF. blunt warning against any attempt The American initiative, such move would be "unaccept-

Turkish President Recep Tayyown affairs, as well as by Bashar ip Erdogan has warned repeated- main about the size and admin- their military presence to con- tion's anger over Ankara's recent Al Assad's regime, which remains ly that his country is preparing istration of the zone, with the front the Kurds. But Washington deal with Moscow to buy S-400 determined to reclaim control of for a military offensive in Syria Turks continuing to insist that has made little progress with its anti-aircraft missile systems, Tensions over the Kurds' pre- Units, the Kurdish militia known in order to address their security European and other international tions about Turkey's continued

protection to the Kurdish border by Turkey to launch a military frontation between the US and to be maintained in the proposed in the conflict. region between Turkey and re- incursion against Turkish-held Turkey has been averted after area, which will also be used as areas. He told Ankara that any the two sides agreed to establish a a "peace corridor" to allow dis-further complicated by the doujoint operations centre to coordithough, is being challenged by able", and that the US would resist nate the running of a buffer zone country. Ankara, which remains deeply any Turkish invasion of northern for the Kurds in north-eastern

against the People's Protection it should be 32 kilometres deep diplomatic efforts to persuade which raises some serious ques-

The prospect of a direct con- been reached on how security is their hands of their involvement placed Syrians to return to their ble standards Turkey has demon-

having responsibility for the zone recent weeks. Yet, significant differences re- because of fears they will use

12km. Nor has any agreement of the Europeans trying to wash

The situation on the ground is strated through its dealings with The US is opposed to Turkey both Moscow and Washington in

Despite the Trump administraweek when Mark Esper, the new US backing as the main Kurdish believe it should be no larger than - yet another shameful example the US relies heavily on the use

While the war against ISIS has been won, the struggle for post-conflict Syria is set to continue for some time to come