QUOTE OF THE DAY

**NEITHER A WISE MAN NOR A BRAVE MAN LIES DOWN ON** THE TRACKS OF HISTORY TO WAIT FOR THE TRAIN OF THE **FUTURE TO RUN OVER HIM.** 

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

## America needs a national epiphany on gun control

The opposition to gun control in the US is fierce, even if everyone knows that if guns were more regulated, there would be less incidents like the one last week in Santa Clarita, California

## **JANINE DI GIOVIANNI**

round of senseless killings; and lated by individuals. another set of families who are including the shooter Nathaniel Berhow, are dead.

chology, a boy scout who men- Fe, Texas, Columbine. tored younger students and a wounding the others before us- gun control tighter. ing the last bullet on himself.

against the backdrop of a tense shock that most of the victims week of impeachment proceed- of Columbine, the mass shoot- of these shooters were able to ings of US President Donald ing in 1999, one of the worst access weapons and that could so stark. Democrats and Re- gun control in the US and to guns entirely. publicans are divided over Mr implement higher standards so er to pieces over crucial policies to get their hands on deadly Amendment, which was passed and abortion rights.

The number of mass shoot- ing the country safer. ings in the US this year is avthe Gun Violence Archive.

most heated debates in Ameriten took him hunting. But the al ethos of the US.

to carry arms cite their constitutional right to self defence. ast week there was yet an- They talk of coup d'etats, home other high-school shoot- invasions and tyrannical goving in the US; another ernments that need to be regu-

The opposition to gun control planning funerals instead of the in the US is fierce, even if everyupcoming Thanksgiving holi- one knows that if guns were days. Three teenagers at Sau- more regulated, there would be gus High School in California, fewer incidents like the one last week in Santa Clarita, California. Even the roll call of sorrow Berhow was 16 years old and over the past few decades is by all accounts, smart and po- not enough to convince them: lite. He was a student of psy- Parkwood, Sandy Hook, Santa

The names of places where cross-country runner. Local po- children were slaughtered – and lice still do not know Berhow's I am not even listing the incimotive or why he had six other dents at churches, synagogues weapons at home. His mother, and public places - are now who dropped him off at school embedded in American history. on Thursday morning, had no Listening to the testimonies of idea her son had a semi-auto- parents who have lost children matic handgun in his backpack in school shootings is heart-- or that he would unleash it on breaking, and yet their advofive students, killing two and cacy has done nothing to make

When I heard the news of The shootings took place Santa Clarita, I realised with

eraging more than days: as of these shootings. The shooters ple to keep and bear arms shall November 15, the 319th day of at Columbine were severely not be infringed.' the year, there have been 366 bullied by their classmates – mass shootings, according to which is no excuse - while the firearm - for protection, for Gun control is one of the recently lost his father who of- remained central to the nation-



A Saugus High School student (2nd L) in front of the school where the shooting tool and others wounded.

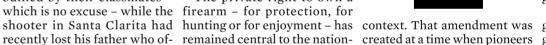
Trump. These events seem ut- in US history, would now be in have been prevented. Instead terly unrelated - and yet they their mid-30s, had their lives of having lockdown drills at are not. The political polarisa- not been cut short. We have schools, we should be looking tion of America has never been had two decades to examine at how to change the culture of

So where does our gun cul-Trump and are tearing each oth- teenagers and adults aren't able ture come from? The Second regarding taxation, gun control weapons. Yet we have gone no by Congress in 1789, states: "A further down the road to mak- well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a Individual motives vary in free state, the right of the peo-

The private right to own a

ca. Those who defend the right common denominator is that all But it needs to be looked at in land. The country was young 1

**Former US President Barack Obama had fought** hard for gun control and made it one of his priorities. He was devastated by the Senate's decision and called it "a pretty shameful day for Washington".



needed guns to protect their a

## UK's relations with the Gulf will be at stal

**CON COUGHLIN** 

dle East for many years to come. membership.

For the majority of voters in has taken hold of the country as ernment is formed. a result of the outgoing governdeadlock.

with his "get Brexit done" slogan repercussions of its own. forming the centrepiece of his Britain's exit by January 31 next

If, on the other hand, Labour its traditional Arab allies. leader Jeremy Corbyn emerges or by forming a coalition with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mo-

anti-Brexit parties such as the Liberal Democrats and the Scot-**7**hen Britons go to the tish nationalists, the country can polls next month to expect another prolonged period ▼ V elect the country's of Brexit debate, with the most next prime minister, the outcome likely outcome being Britain could have a profound effect on holding a second referendum the UK's relations with the Mid- on the troublesome issue of EU

Yet while Brexit will remain Britain, the contest is being seen a dominant feature of the camas the Brexit election because, ir- paign, there are many other respective of who wins, the hope issues up for debate, not least is that the outcome will finally the role Britain will play on the break the political paralysis that world stage once the new gov-

And at a time when the Arab ment's failure to break the Brexit world is facing increased uncertainty as a result of the Trump Thus, if Tory leader Boris administration's confused policy Johnson can win sufficient seats towards the region, the outcome to form the new government of the British election could have

In his four months as prime campaign, then the expectation minister since replacing Thereis that he will press ahead with sa May, Mr Johnson has made

Prior to entering Downing victorious, either with Labour Street, Mr Johnson established



Jeremy Corbyn, left, and Boris Johnson, right, will face off next month in a general election.

the deal he has negotiated with significant strides towards hammed bin Salman and spent is returned to power. the European Union to secure demonstrating that, under his a week as a guest on his private leadership, Britain would be far yacht last summer. Since becom- also benefited Britain's Arab almore proactive in its support of ing prime minister, Mr Johnson lies in the Gulf, which have seen the other European signatories. by

Mr Johnson's leadership has has continued to maintain a close a distinctive shift in Britain's podialogue with Riyadh, and the sition with regard to Iran and with Westminster if Mr Johnson year tenure, Britain remained forts to improve security for Gulf or

committed to supporting the "a nuclear deal with Iran, in com-ris mon with France and Germany,

Since Mr Johnson replaced her, bi Westminster has taken a more ro- pu Saudis can expect to continue to the controversial nuclear deal. bust attitude towards Tehran and be winning an outright majority a warm personal friendship with enjoy a constructive relationship Throughout Mrs May's three- has now joined American-led ef- w

The role the UK plays on the world stage once the new government is formed will be up for debate on December 12