Top 10 Greatest Firearms in History plus a few others
... from History

• The Top 10 Worst Firearms
• The Most Bizarre
• The Top 10 Greatest Firearms
The Worst

10 - Colt Revolving Rifles

- 1830s Vintage
- Gap at front of cylinder leaked hot gasses and diminished the muzzle velocity
- Double action version rotated the cylinder so quickly that hot gasses from the just fired round were directed at the hand of the shooter
The Worst

9 – The Liberator

- WWII Vintage .45 ACP
- Dropped behind enemy lines
- Single shot
- Firing on enemy with semi-autos
- Needed stick to push out spent cartridge
The Worst

8 - Gyrojet

- 1960s Vintage
- Fired 13mm Rockets
- Lacked power to kill at close range
- Sometimes projectile just fell out of end of barrel
The Worst

7- Boys Anti-Tank Rifle

- WWII Vintage
- 5 Shot - .55 Caliber
- Weight = 36lbs

- Round penetrated 21mm of armor at 300 yds

- Problem: Panzer armor was thicker than 21mm
The Worst

6 – Nock Volley Gun

- 1780 Vintage
- Fired 7 .50 caliber rounds AT THE SAME TIME
- Navy gun to repel boarders
- Frequently broke the shoulder of shooter

- Muzzle blast tended to set the ships rigging on fire
The Worst

5 – Cochran Revolver

- Cylinder revolved horizontally
- After firing you had a loaded round pointing back at you
- If tube was machined a fraction too deep, round pointed at you would fire as well
4 – Nambu (94 Shiki Kenju)

- WWII Vintage
- 8mm caliber
- 14 Taisho rounds
- Firing sear projected from sides causing accidental discharges
- Considered more dangerous to the shooter than his target
3 – Pepper Box Revolver

- Preceded the Colt type of revolver
- Very heavy due to multiple barrels
- Sometimes all shots would go off at once & break shooters wrist
- Would sometimes explode
- Widely inaccurate
- Safest place when it went off was directly in front of it.
The Worst

2 - Grossflammenwerfer

- WWI Vintage
- Flame thrower
- Germans manned it with convicts due to danger
- "A bomb" waiting to go off
- Viewed as barbaric

- Allied troops rarely let operators surrender alive
The Worst

1 - Chauchat

- WWI Vintage
- French
- Holes in the magazines that collected dirt
- Parts not interchangeable from gun to gun
- French soldiers threw it away in favor of a rifle
The Most Bizarre

Ribauldequin

- 14/15th Centuries
- Organ Gun
- Muzzle loader
- Used as artillery
- Horse drawn wagons stuck in mud due to weight
The Most Bizarre

Periscope Rifles

- WWI Vintage
- Invented by English Lance Corp Beech
- For trench warfare
- Gov’ts picked up design but failed to get to troops before WWI was over
The Most Bizarre

Pocket Knife & Revolver

- Mid-1800s Vintage
- English company
- Called “The Defender” in the US
- Made thru mid-1930s
- .22 cal - $5
Elgin Cutlass Pistol

• Bowie knife with percussion smooth-bore pistol
• 150 issued to USN
• Cumbersome to aim & reload and use as a knife
• Discontinued
The Most Bizarre

Knuckle-duster Guns

- Late 1800s Vintage
- Combo knife, gun, brass knuckles
- Called “My Friend”
- Cylinder chamber was also the barrel
- Typically used by travelers
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

10 – MG-42

• “Hitler’s Buzzsaw”
• Used against us & Russians
• 8mm – 1,200 rounds/min
• Air cooled
• Barrel would melt in 5 min continuous use
• Carried spare barrels
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

9 – Glock Handgun

• First polymer gun
  – 6 oz Lighter
• Only 34 parts – interchangeable
• Extraordinarily reliable
• Unique safeties
• Choice of 85% of US police forces
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

8 - .303 Lee-Enfield

- 10 rnd Magazine
- British Army from 1895 thru 1957
- Accurate to 1,000 yds w/ Open Sights
- “The Mad Minute”
- 30 rnds/60 sec/30 hits on target
  - Two reloads
  - Bolt action ½ sec
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

7 - .50 M2HB “Ma Deuce” BMG

- .50 Caliber
  - 800 grain powder yields 14,895 ft lb @ muzzle
  - 1,200 rnds / min
- Can go through 3 vehicles or 1 tank
- Shot down helicopter w/ 1 round
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

6 – S&W Model 29 .44 Magnum

- Developed 1955
- Relatively inexpensive
- Surpassed by few
- Can drop Cape Buffaloes and Polar Bears
- “It will make your day!”
Dirty Harry – 1971
.44 Magnum
9 inch Barrel
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

5 – Mauser Model 1893

- Paul Mauser patented in 1893 in 7mm
- Benchmark for all bolt action rifles
- 3 types:
  - Lee-Enfield
  - Mauser
  - Mosin-Nagant

- Mauser most widespread
  - Most Reliable
  - Most battle proven
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

4 – Colt Single Action Army

- Icon of the Old West
- .45 Caliber
- Invented in 1893
- Kinetic energy to flip charging man backward of his feet
- Powder loads able to take down Grizzley
- Wyatt Earp’s gun of choice
3 – Henry Repeating Rifle

- Invented in 1860 by Benjamin Henry
- NOT adopted by either Union or Confederacy
- Fired .44 Caliber

- 16 rnd Magazine
- Could fire 28 rnds/min vs 3 for muzzle loaders
- A winner for whichever side adopted it
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

2 – AK-47 Kalashnikov

- Pinnacle in rugged reliability
- Battle rifle good to 400 yards
- Can take extraordinary abuse and keep firing

1966, Vietnam – Marine found AK abandoned, rusted, rotting stock – Forced action open with heel, loaded & fired a round hitting target 50 yds away, twice.
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

• And coming in at #1:
  – Drum Roll Please...
Top 10 Greatest Firearms

1 – Colt 1911

- As rugged and reliable as AK47
- Invented by Browning 1911
- Choice of US Military from 1911 to 1985
- Only way to improve is to make it cheaper!
Honorable Mentions

Handguns

- S&W Mod 36 .38 Spl
- Walther P-38
- CZ – 75
- Browning Hi-Power
- Philadelphia Derringer

Rifles

- Gatling Gun, 1862
- U.S. M1 Garand
- Russian Mosin Nagant
- Israeli Uzi
- U.S. M16
- German StG44, MP43
- U.S. XM-25