When viewed together, Figures 1 and 2 indicate the total and gun homicide rates for each year, as well as a depiction of gun homicides in comparison to the total homicide rate during the period. Overall, the gun homicide rate follows the same general pattern as the total rate—an overall increase that includes a substantial upturn following 1918. Prior to 1898, the gun homicide rate exceeded three (per 100,000 persons) during the years 1882–1894, at which time the gun homicide rate fell below that level in only one year (1910) during the remainder of the period. Following 1918, however, the aforementioned upswing in the gun homicide rate reappeared. The rate of 7.46 for 1919 dropped to 6.07 in 1920, but increased during the following eight years, peaking at 11.51 in 1928, the highest gun homicide rate of any year during the period between 1870 and 1930.

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[67] WESLEY G. SKOGAN, CHICAGO SINCE 1840: A TIME-SERIES DATA HANDBOOK (1996).

Figure 1
Total Homicide Rate

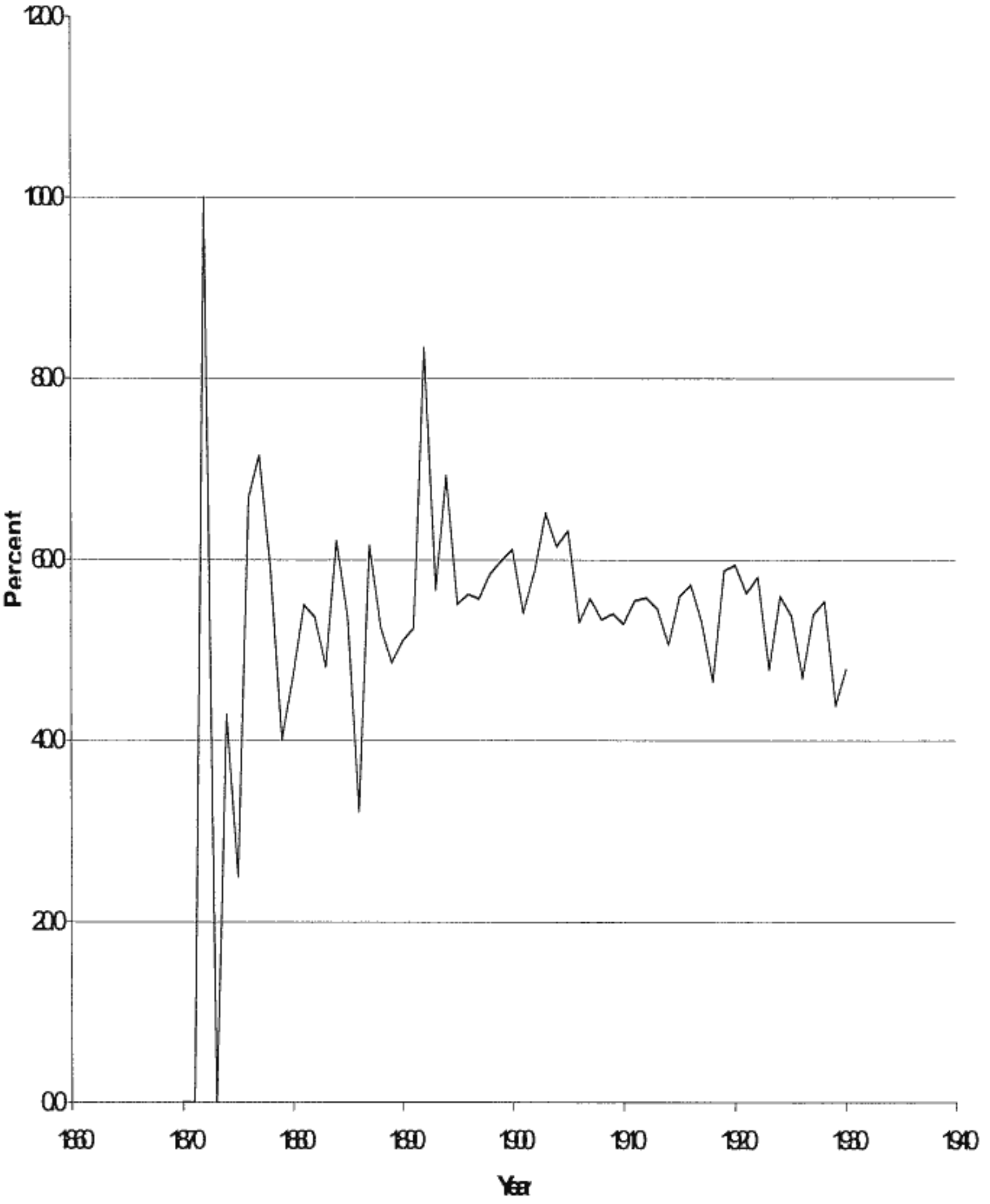
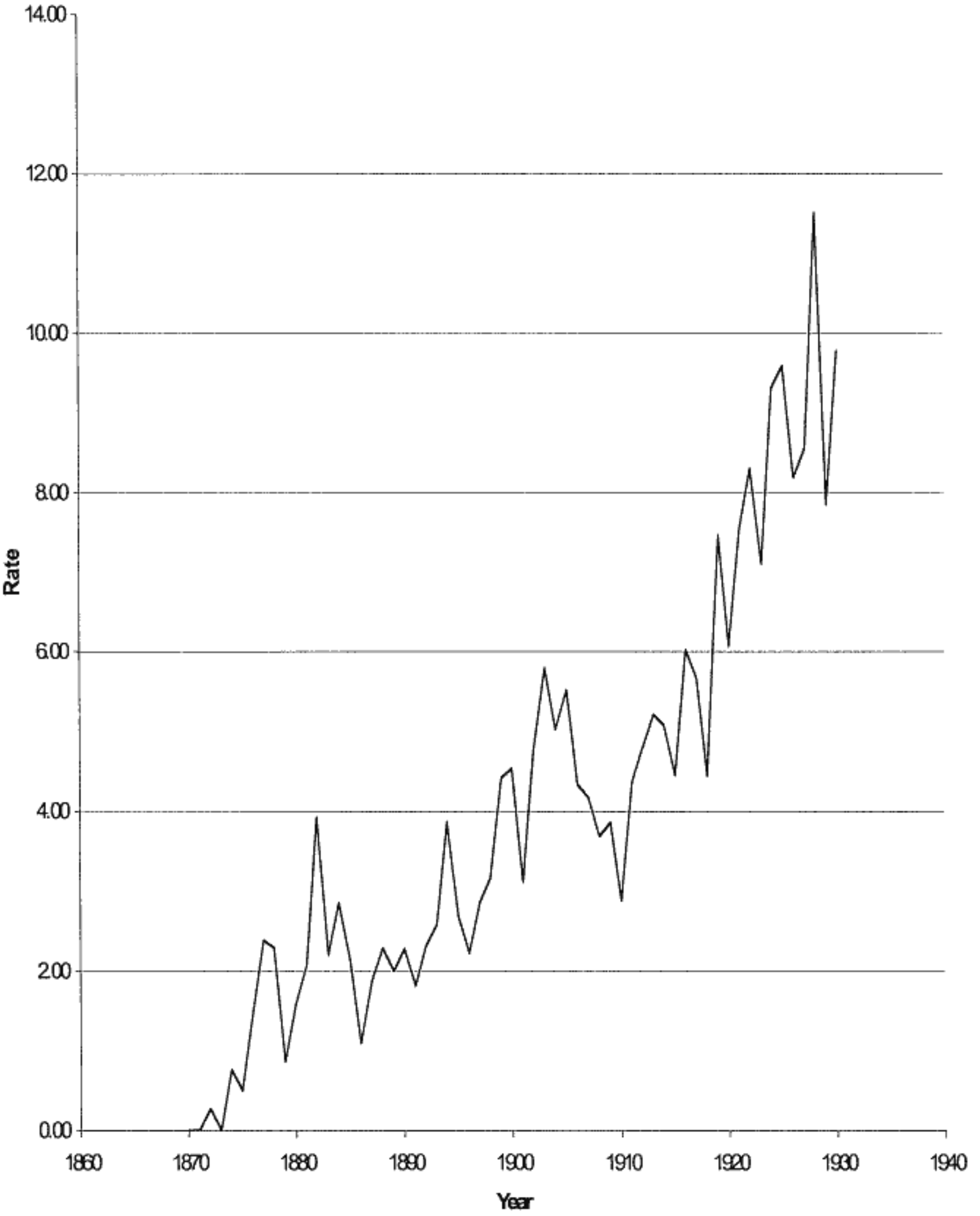


Figure 2

Gun Homicide Rate, 1870-1930



As stated previously, the period between 1870 and 1930 included a number of significant events related to changes in the homicide rate, including instances of civil unrest. During the latter half of the nineteenth and into the early twentieth century, several notable instances of civil disturbance—most notably involving labor struggles—occurred in many cities including Chicago. These events, coupled with rapid population growth in the city, definitely influenced social life in many ways, including increased violence. Two sets of circumstances are important. First, some incidents were associated with an event itself, such as 1877, when thirty strikers were killed during a railroad strike.[68] Second, in some instances, the impact of labor disputes and struggles may have influenced violent behavior beyond the event itself, straining relations between groups and facilitating a milieu that increased the likelihood of violence.

Particularly during the later part of the nineteenth century the massive influx of immigrants was viewed negatively by the predominantly Anglo–Protestant establishment. For the most part, immigrants were viewed as anarchists intent on undermining the existing social order. Added to this notion was the concern that stores of weapons were being amassed for this purpose. In that regard it is possible that increased restrictions on the possession of concealed weapons were motivated by these concerns.[69]

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[68] Matthew Taylor Raffety, *Chicago, in* VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA 213–16 (Ronald Gottesman, ed. 1999)

[69] Kates, *supra* note 26, at 7–30.

[70] Raffety, *supra* note 68, at 213–16; SPINNEY, *supra* note 10, at 107–213.

[71] SKOGAN, *supra* note 67, at 103; LINDBERG, *supra* note 7, at 73–75.