

Responding to Rush

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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[Rush Limbaugh](#):

If a lot of African-Americans back in the '60s had guns and the legal right to use them for self-defense, you think they would have needed Selma? . . . If John Lewis had had a gun, would he have been beat upside the head on the bridge?

[Rep. John Lewis](#):

African Americans in the 60s could have chosen to arm themselves, but we made a conscious decision not to. We were convinced that peace could not be achieved through violence. Violence begets violence, and we believed the only way to achieve peaceful ends was through peaceful means. We took a stand against an unjust system, and we decided to use this faith as our shield and the power of compassion as our defense.

[David Frum](#):

Lewis resisted the temptation to add the question: "I wonder what Rush Limbaugh would say about a black protester who actually *did* fire upon state troopers and sheriff's deputies?"