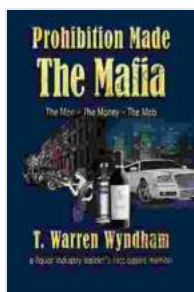


# The Men, the Money, the Mob: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Organized Crime in America

Organized crime is a serious problem in the United States. It is estimated that there are over 3,000 organized crime groups operating in the country, with an estimated membership of over 100,000 people. These groups are involved in a wide range of criminal activities, including racketeering, money laundering, extortion, gambling, drugs, and violence.



## Prohibition Made The Mafia: The Men - The Money - The Mob by T. Warren Wyndham

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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The history of organized crime in the United States dates back to the late 19th century, when Italian immigrants began to form criminal gangs in major cities such as New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia. These gangs were initially involved in petty crime, such as theft and gambling, but they soon began to expand their operations into more lucrative activities, such as racketeering and extortion.

By the early 20th century, organized crime had become a major force in American society. The gangs had formed alliances with corrupt politicians and law enforcement officials, and they were able to operate with impunity. This led to a wave of violence and corruption that plagued the country for decades.

In the 1950s, the federal government began to crack down on organized crime. The Kefauver Commission investigated the activities of organized crime groups, and the FBI launched a major campaign to infiltrate and disrupt these groups.

These efforts led to a decline in organized crime activity, but the problem never went away. In the 1980s and 1990s, organized crime groups began to rebuild their power. They took advantage of the growth of the drug trade and the globalization of the economy to expand their operations.

Today, organized crime is a major threat to the United States. The groups are involved in a wide range of criminal activities, and they have the resources and connections to carry out sophisticated and violent crimes.

### **The Major Crime Families**

There are several major crime families operating in the United States. The most powerful of these families are the five New York City-based families: the Gambino, Genovese, Lucchese, Bonanno, and Colombo families.

These families control a wide range of criminal activities in the New York area, including racketeering, money laundering, extortion, gambling, and drugs.

Other major crime families include the Chicago Outfit, the Philadelphia Crime Family, the New England Crime Family, and the Los Angeles Crime Family.

## **The Leaders of Organized Crime**

The leaders of organized crime families are known as bosses. Bosses are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of their families and for making major decisions.

Some of the most notorious bosses in history include Al Capone, Lucky Luciano, and John Gotti.

## **The Activities of Organized Crime**

Organized crime groups are involved in a wide range of criminal activities. These activities include:

- **Racketeering:** Racketeering is a pattern of criminal activity that involves the use of extortion, fraud, or violence to obtain money or property.
- **Money laundering:** Money laundering is the process of concealing the origins of illegally obtained money.
- **Extortion:** Extortion is the act of obtaining money or property from someone by threatening them with violence or harm.
- **Gambling:** Gambling is a major source of income for organized crime groups. They operate illegal gambling operations, such as sports betting, casinos, and poker games.

- **Drugs:** Organized crime groups are involved in the trafficking and distribution of illegal drugs. They control a significant portion of the drug trade in the United States.
- **Violence:** Organized crime groups use violence to intimidate and control their victims. They may engage in murder, assault, and arson.

## **The Law Enforcement Efforts to Combat Organized Crime**

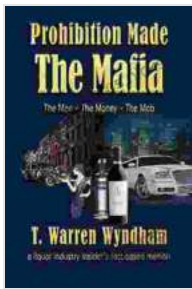
Law enforcement agencies are working to combat organized crime. The FBI has a dedicated organized crime division that investigates and prosecutes organized crime groups.

The FBI also works with other law enforcement agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to combat organized crime.

In addition to law enforcement efforts, there are also a number of community-based organizations that are working to prevent and combat organized crime. These organizations provide support and services to victims of organized crime and work to educate the public about the dangers of organized crime.

Organized crime is a serious problem in the United States. It is a threat to our safety, our economy, and our way of life.

Law enforcement agencies are working to combat organized crime, but they need the help of the public. We can all help to prevent and combat organized crime by being aware of the problem and by reporting any suspicious activity to the authorities.

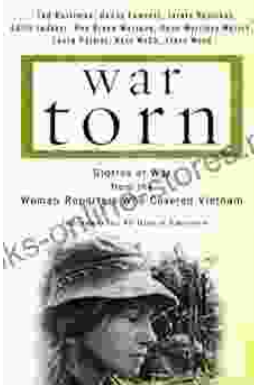


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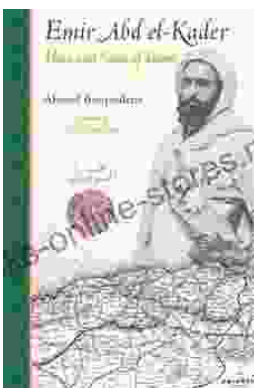
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