



Mafia

The Necessary Reference to Organized Crime

Crime in its most basic form has existed since laws were first made. Organized crime, epitomized by the Mafia today, has actually existed since early times with piracy being one of the earliest forms.

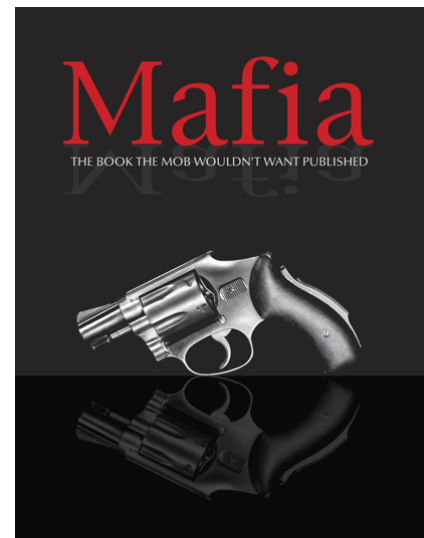
In the twenty-first century, it's important to understand the influence of organized crime on our society and *Mafia* is a modern take on this old and very lucrative industry. Delving inside the politics of the early Sicilian "family," *Mafia* moves across continents analyzing and scrutinizing its various forms that continue today.

Without doubt, the most powerful and successful of all organized criminal groups, the Mafia's secrecy, honor, codes of conduct, and sheer ruthlessness have brought it riches beyond the scope of most industries.

In becoming so successful, its early perpetrators have taken on a cult following that has elevated some to celebrity status and created a massive money earner for Hollywood. Synonymous with expensive suits, flashy shoes, and jaunty fedoras, the Mafia is littered with names that read like a who's who of pulp fiction—Al Capone, Lucky Luciano, Frank Nitti, Dutch Schultz, and Mickey Cohen are just some of the better known.

And along with the actual criminals, go the names of the celluloid criminals and the actors who played them—Don Vito Corleone and his sons Michael and Santino magnificently portrayed by Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, and James Caan are just a few. And along with the endless fascination with the big screen, comes *The Sopranos*, a huge television hit.

Mafia is more than just a history of organized crime. It's a vivid narrative into the way the Mafia was shaped by society and how, in turn, it has reshaped society. The internal politics, the police, the weapons, the murders, and the pride are all documented. *Mafia* is compulsive reading using a dramatic archive of pictures, maps, and text, to probe into the extraordinary lives and violent times of *Cosa Nostra*.



Specifications

325 × 250 mm, portrait

352 pages

ISBN: 978-1-921209-77-2

125,500 words

over 500 images

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