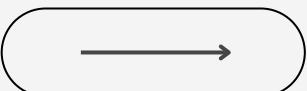




# THE ITALIAN MAFIA

## Evolving Families of Consistent Justice



IES MILAN  
Fall 2024

PRESENTED BY  
Sophia Pak

# Le parole della malavita

MAFIA, CAMORRA E 'NDRANGHETA  
RACCONTATE DA CLAUDIO BOSIO

La mafia è aria che cammina.  
Onnipresente.

GIORGIO BOCCA, IL PROVINCIALE



# LEGENDS THROUGH ART

Fulfils people's curiosity. Now an overused term generically used to define criminal organization.



- The mafia started as good
- Deeply rooted in Italy- to culture (especially Sicilian), religion, and art (literature, operas, plays)
- Superiority + exclusivity, different people in Sicily than the rest of Italy, strong connection to Catholicism
- Origins are based on the real need of something



Video unavailable  
[Watch on YouTube](#)



# THE BEGINNING...



## OF ITALY

The Risorgimento was a political and military movement that united Italy under king Vittorio Emanuele II in 1861, led by Giuseppe Garibaldi and his group of volunteers, "I Mille." Plebiscites held in 1860-1861 were meant to show public support for unification under the House of Savoy, but they were often manipulated through limited ballot choices, coercion, and assumptions of annexation.



## OF THE ITALIAN MAFIA

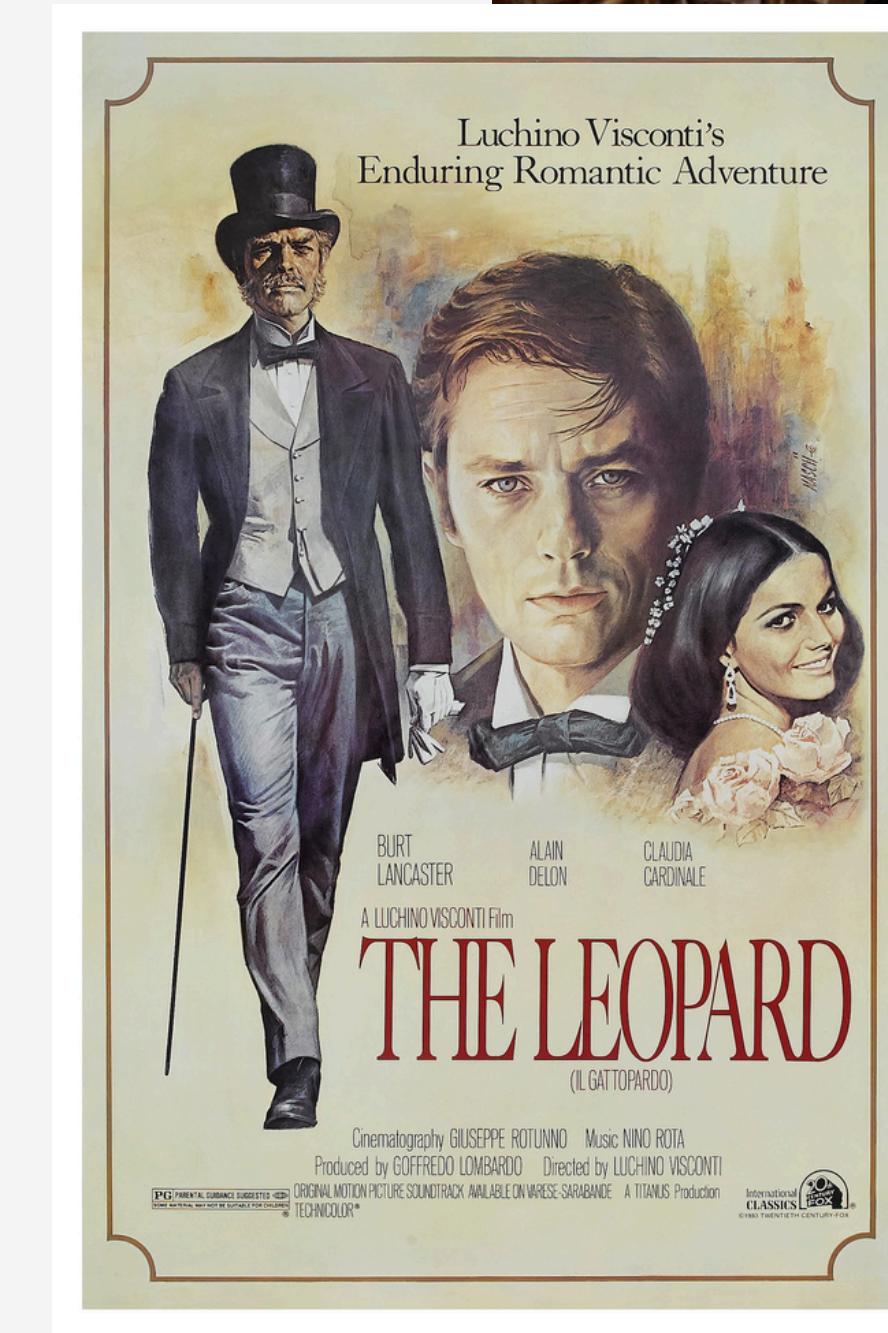
The Mafia originates when the State was unable to protect property rights and market operators, hence a demand for alternative services developed. Mafia gangs invested in violence and protection in various areas: for ex. to guarantee monopolies, to protect from dishonest competitors, etc. They set up a sort of violence industry.

# THE BEGINNING...

The mafia and the new nation of Italy were born together.

The new state was led by King Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy. King Vittorio was incapable of defending law and order. Violence became "democratized". As the aristocracy declined, a whole range of men seized the opportunity to shoot and stab their way into a new landowning class.

Without true representation or trust in the government, Sicilians turned to local networks, the Mafia, to assert influence and protect their interests. The Mafia, acting as a parallel authority, could offer protection and resolve disputes in ways that aligned more with local customs than the laws of the new state.

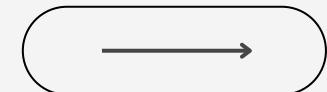


"Behind the Mayor's writing desk gleamed a brand-new portrait of Garibaldi and (already) one of the new King from Piedmont, Victor Emmanuel, luckily hung to the right..."

—"The Leopard" page 31



# THE MAFIA DEFINED



The Mafia are secretive organizations, “families,” that deliver justice through services for their clients for money.



Guilio Andreotti

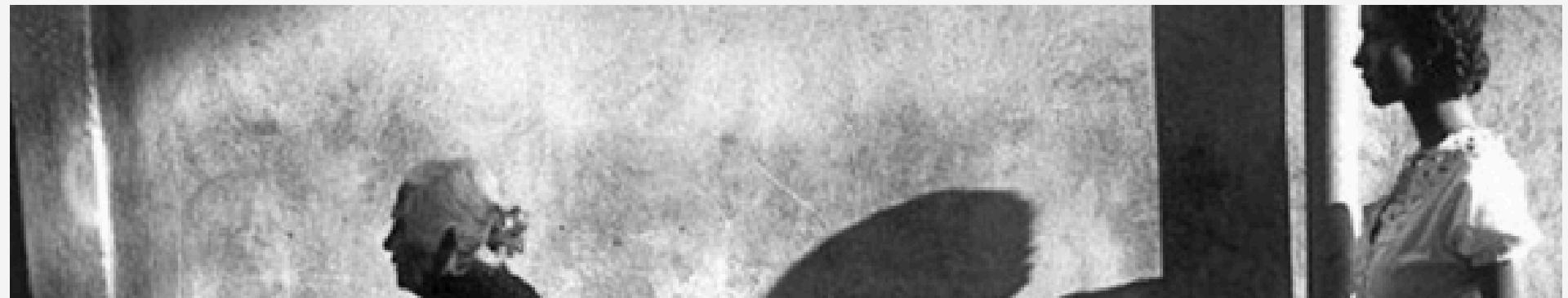
Salvo Lima



An agent of government, life, and economy. The Mafia was an instrument to local government and officials through friendship. They offered financial support, vote-farming, bargaining for freedom to operate, and protection of officials. The Mafia also protected people, stores, etc., settled disputes, enter markets (alcohol, drugs), enforced monopolies, and performed loan sharking.

# THE MAFIA IN ITALY

- Organization with rites of initiation and a rigid hierarchy
- Appropriated cultural codes from the traditional environment
- Gangs were called families, and the members follow a code of honor and the code of silence ('omertà')
- Had a legislative and executive authorities (analogous to state)
- Tribunals to settle controversies and order punishments, elaborate statutes, comparable to our laws



# COSA NOSTRA: SCILIAN FROM THE START

The Cosa Nostra, originating in Sicily, is one of Italy's earliest and most influential Mafia organizations, serving as the "blueprint" for future criminal networks with strong culture and code of honor. Known for its deep entanglement with politics, protection rackets, and the heroin trade, it wielded significant power both locally and internationally.

Along with mass Italian immigration, the group expanded to the United States, evolving into the "American Mafia" and establishing a stronghold in cities like New York. Mayor Gaynor's police reforms in 1910 are often cited as a catalyst for its rise in America. During the Prohibition era, the American Mafia notably dominated the lucrative alcohol smuggling and distribution industry, cementing its influence in organized crime. Media and film like "The Godfather" elaborates on the Cosa Nostra in America.

The decline of the Cosa Nostra is attributed to the anti-mafia pool and the maxi-trial. This wouldn't be possible without pentiti like Tomasso Buscetta, ex-Mafiosi testifying and exposing the mafia.



01 GIOVANNI FALCONE & PAOLO BORSELLINO

02 THE MAXI-TRIAL 1986

03 THE GODFATHER

# CAMORRA: BOSS OF THE NAPLES SLUMS

The Camorra is an Italian criminal organization with roots in Naples, emerging between the 18th and 19th centuries as a network of local gangs. Over the decades, it expanded from local illegal activities, like cigarette smuggling in the 1960s, to controlling global drug and counterfeit goods markets by the 1990s.

The 1980 earthquake marked a turning point, as the Camorra exploited government reconstruction funds, solidifying its influence over public works and politics. It thrives in "non-places," impoverished urban zones marked by unemployment, crime, and social degradation, where its decision-making hubs are often localized. Unlike other mafias, it operates as a decentralized system of clans rather than a strict hierarchy. Camorra operations ties its influence to broader issues of urban neglect and socioeconomic inequality, a theme effectively dramatized in the TV series "Gomorrah".

Today, it continues to wield significant power, particularly in waste disposal, trade in high quality goods with counterfeit trademarks, the cocaine industry, and the Italian high fashion market. Its adaptability ensures its persistence as a formidable force in organized crime.



01

LADY IMMA IN GOMORRAH



02

NAPLES SLUMS/NON-PLACES



03

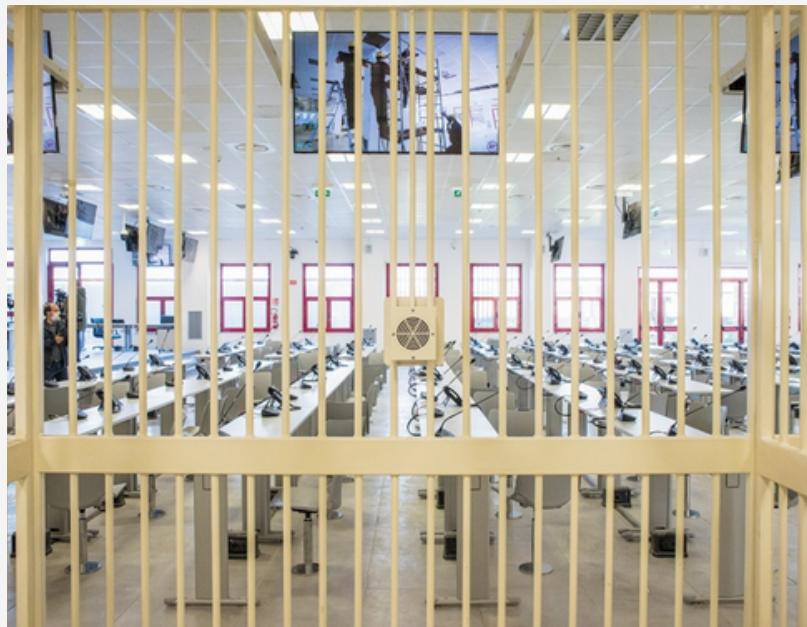
PORT IN NAPLES, CAMORRA TRADE

# 'NDRANGHETA: MODERN DAY MAFIA

"It is the only mafia that has been able to replicate itself...the 'Ndrangheta has always, and throughout the world, remained faithful to itself." - "The Real Specter" by John Hooper

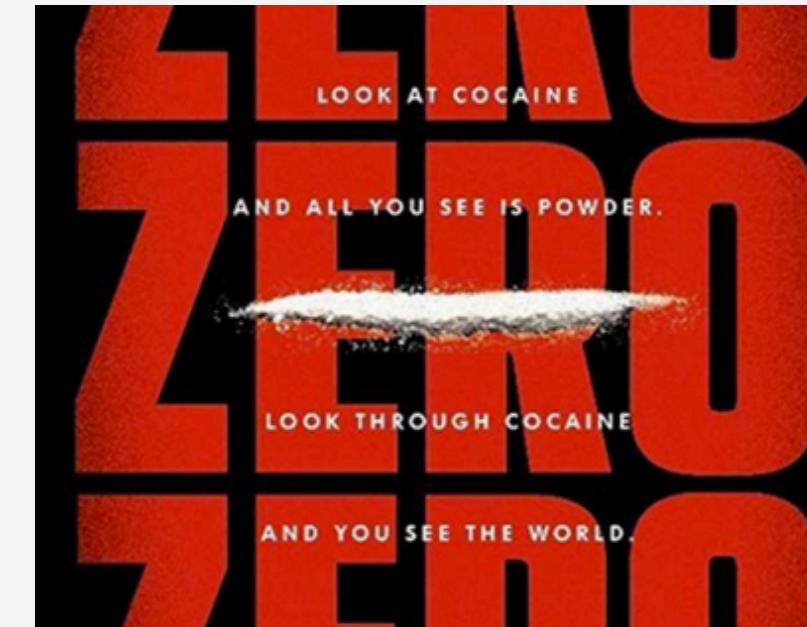
The 'Ndrangheta, originating in Calabria, Italy, is a multinational criminal organization. With 80% of its revenues coming from outside Italy, it has engaged in a range of illegal activities, including bombings, money laundering, and drug trafficking. Its involvement in the global cocaine market, especially through South American links, has made it one of the most powerful crime syndicates worldwide.

The organization has a unique family structure based on true blood ties which has helped it maintain resilience despite law enforcement efforts. The 'Ndrangheta's influence extended to Australia, where it was involved in high-profile murders and the cocaine trade, as well as to Canada, where it established 5 lodges in Toronto and 2 in Thunder Bay. Collaborating with international criminal groups, the 'Ndrangheta controls major drug trafficking routes, particularly through Brazil and the Mediterranean port of Gioia Tauro. The 'Ndrangheta remains a powerful and relevant organization worldwide.



01

THE MAXI TRIAL "RINASCITA-SCOTT"



"ZERO ZERO ZERO" BY ROBERTO SAVIANO

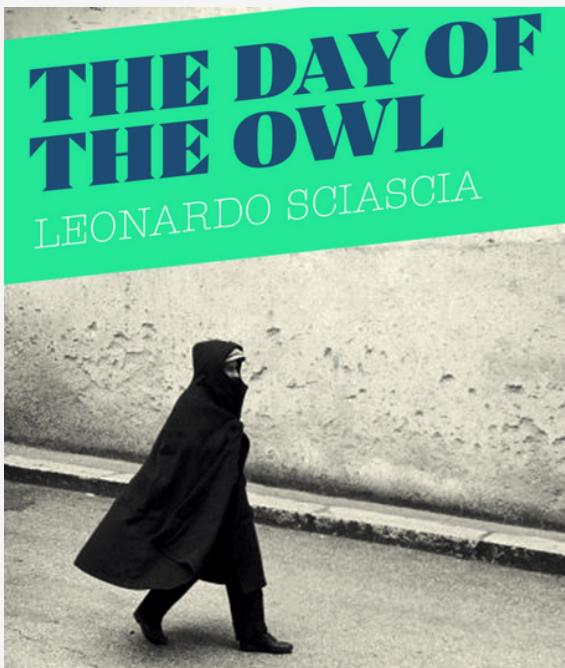


02

CALABRIAN UNDERWORLD

03

# THROUGHOUT TIME...



"I am speaking of the sense of justice, not the administration of justice ... Anyway, suppose we two were squabbling about a piece of land, a will, or a debt; and along comes a third party and settles things between us; then in a sense that third party is administering justice." - "The Day of the Owl"

The mafia has consistently relied on secrecy, loyalty, and a hierarchical structure to maintain control, with members expected to uphold a strict code of silence (Omertà). Violence and intimidation have been key tools for enforcing power, while corruption of public officials and control over both illegal and legitimate businesses ensures the mafia's survival.



# THE POINT IS...

Over time, the mafia, especially large organizations like the Cosa Nostra, Camorra, and 'Ndrangheta, has adapted to the ever-changing world. However, they sustain influence through their maintenance of uniquely consistent organization structure, rules, and sense of justice.



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