

Seventh Edition

ORGANIZED CRIME

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PREFACE

NEW TO THIS EDITION

- Various sections throughout the book have been expanded to cover greater detail. These include modern-day piracy and recent arrests of Italian, Mexican, Russian, and Chinese mob figures.
- A section has been expanded to focus on changes in Mexican drug trafficking.
- New to this edition is an expanded discussion of terrorism, and how it interacts with organized crime.
- This edition includes updated case studies, statistics, and photographs.
- There is new material on ISIS and its “business model.”
- This edition presents new material on organized crime’s use of computers and technology and brings about a revamping of Chapter 9: Terrorism and Organized Crime.

Crime and criminality have been cornerstones for countless movie and book plots and radio and TV talk shows over the decades. Of all the varied types of criminal activity, however, organized crime has proved to be the most intriguing through the years. Images of pinstriped gangsters, police shoot-outs, and flamboyant lifestyles emerge whenever the topic of organized crime is mentioned. To a great extent, these images form the basis for stereotyping what the public generally perceives as organized crime. However, these images fail to portray organized crime realistically. Organized crime is as diverse as our rich American history. For example, would it surprise you to learn that cowboys of the old west often worked in organized groups to commit stagecoach heists and bank robberies? Would it surprise you to know that pirates exist as of the writing of this book? They, in fact, do. Indeed, today organized crime has taken on many different aspects and continued to evolve. These and many, many other facets of organized crime will be examined in this new edition.

The seventh edition of *Organized Crime* is designed to be an introductory text serving several purposes in the field of criminal justice. First, it gives the reader an understanding of the concept of organized crime—what it is and what it is not—and the necessary historical foundation for understanding the evolution, development, and current status of organized crime. Most important, the book is designed to dispel the myth that organized crime is composed exclusively of Italian American criminal groups. In fact, when considering the overall problem of crime in our communities, other criminal groups, such as the African American, Mexican, Russian, and Nigerian, play an increasingly important role.

Another important component of the book is that drug trafficking plays an important role in the continuing proliferation of organized crime groups. The existence of the illegal drug trade says much about both the groups that traffic in illicit drugs and the members of society who use these drugs, consequently lending support to organized criminals. In addition to a separate chapter dealing with the issue, the topic is discussed intermittently throughout the book.

Finally, terrorism has dominated public policy since September 11, 2001. With increasing global awareness of terrorist organizations and those who belong to them, traditional models of terrorism have been challenged because the structure, financing, and recruiting mechanisms of such organizations are becoming more and more like their criminal counterparts in conventional organized crime.

We have made a great effort to present this material in a logically organized, readable fashion. The problem of organized crime is examined from a social perspective using specially designed pedagogical features. These include chapter objectives, critical thinking projects, chapter summaries, key terms, points of discussion, and suggested readings. All these features

are designed to promote scholarly thought and insight into the problem of organized crime, while presenting important thematic questions in each chapter, including these: What is organized crime? Is there really a Mafia? Is terrorism organized crime? Do political machines still exist? Although there are no hard-and-fast answers to these questions, readers can draw conclusions and perhaps develop probing questions on their own. In many respects, the most important pursuit for students studying organized crime is to develop sufficient mastery of the topic to ask the right questions.

This edition incorporates a considerable amount of new material and updates, such as sections on definitions of organized crime, Mexican cartels, Somali pirates, RICO, Eastern African groups, Albanian drug-smuggling networks, Triborder Area OC activity, the counterfeit consumer goods industry as well as updated case studies, statistics, and graphics.

The preparation of this book was a demanding task because it required sifting through an enormous amount of historical data and archives to find and present the most salient aspects of the organized crime problem. Efforts taken in the preparation and updating of this book were augmented by numerous individuals and organizations. In addition to the research offered by well-known experts in the field, information was also culled from government reports generated by organizations such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Institute of Justice, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Finally, many thanks to the numerous friends and colleagues at Pearson/Prentice Hall who helped in the book's production. The study of organized crime is one of the most fascinating educational endeavors, posing thematic, scholarly, and ideological questions. As we attempt to understand this area of interest, bear in mind that during the past century organized crime became the most insidious form of criminality, involving criminals, politicians, bankers, lawyers, and the all-important users of illegal goods and services. Thank you for adopting this book for classroom study. Any comments and suggestions are encouraged regarding this publication for the improvement of future editions. Feel free to contact the author at the following address:

INSTRUCTOR SUPPLEMENTS

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Organized crime or criminal organizations are transnational, national, or local groupings of highly centralized enterprises run by criminals for the purpose of engaging in illegal activity, most commonly for monetary profit. Some criminal organizations, such as terrorist organizations, are politically motivated (see Violent non-state actor (VNSA)).

1.2.1 The "disorganized crime" and choice theses.

1.2.2 International governance approach.

1.2.3 The locus of power and organized crime.

2 Theoretical background.

Organized crime is a general term used to describe any sort of group or ring of people who strategically work together to commit fraud, extortion, or other illegal activity. The main goal of this sort of group is moneymaking, though holding power and having the ability to control both people and circumstances is also usually an important aspect. The Italian Mafia is one of the most notorious international crime circles and has been glorified in a number of film, TV, and literary adaptations. Organized Crime is any number of disciplined groups of criminals who run criminal enterprises, have the goal of acquiring wealth and power, and operate locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally. In the 21st century there are many types of organized crime groups, from local groups which operate in a single city to those which operate globally. Some of these groups are newly established and have been around for only years and a few have been around for centuries. There are groups that are part