



BAUMUN'24 INTERPOL Study Guide

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BAUMUN'24 | 3 - 5 MAY
#WelcomeToBosphorus

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1. Letter From Secretariat

Dear Participants,

On behalf of the Secretariat and the entire Organization Team, it is my honor to extend a warm welcome to you all for the BAUMUN'24. As Secretary-General, I am thrilled to see intelligent, driven people from diverse organizations come together to have fruitful discussions and diplomatic engagements.

You will have the chance to participate in inspiring debates, negotiation sessions, and social events during the conference. There is no doubt that the diverse range of experiences and perspectives that each delegate brings to the table will enhance the success and energy of this conference.

Our dedicated team has put in endless hours to make sure that every detail of the conference is well thought out to give every participant a fulfilling and unforgettable experience. Through our committees and social events, we hope to establish an atmosphere that promotes friendship, teamwork, and a profound understanding of the UN's principles.

I invite you to approach each session of this intellectual experience with an open mind, a cooperative spirit, and a dedication to finding common ground. Your enthusiastic and active participation is what will make this conference a success, and I do not doubt that your efforts will make it something remarkable.

Once again, welcome back to the BAUMUN'24 and Welcome Back to Bosphorus. May your time here be filled with meaningful discussions, lasting connections, and a sense of accomplishment as we work together to empower tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Ilgim Mina ABAT

Secretary-General of BAUMUN'24

2. Letter From Committee Board

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Chairboard of the INTERPOL Committee, Yiğitcan Değişme and Bilel Elarem, we extend a warm welcome to all delegates participating in the Model United Nations Conference. We are excited to have you join us for discussions on the critical topic of "International Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime."

As your chairs, it is our privilege to guide you through this simulation of the INTERPOL Committee, where we will collectively explore and address the multifaceted challenges posed by organized crime on a global scale. Organized crime knows no borders, and its impact extends far beyond national jurisdictions. Therefore, effective international cooperation is paramount in combating this complex threat to global security, stability, and prosperity.

Throughout the conference, we encourage all delegates to engage actively in substantive discussions, collaborate with fellow delegates, and propose innovative solutions to the challenges at hand. We advise you to read all parts of the guide carefully and look at the further research part of the guide. Your dedication, diplomacy, and critical thinking will be essential in formulating comprehensive strategies and policies to counter organized crime effectively.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Secretariat and organizers behind this conference for their tireless efforts in bringing this event to fruition. Their dedication and hard work have made it possible for us to come together in this forum and engage in meaningful dialogue on pressing global issues.

Sincerely,

Yiğitcan Değişme and Bilel Elarem

Committee Board Members of INTERPOL

3. Introduction to United Nations

The United Nations, established in 1945, is a global institution consisting of 193 Member States. Its mission and operations are guided by the goals and principles outlined in its founding Charter.



Thanks to the powers granted by its Charter and its unique international character, the United Nations has the ability to address a wide range of issues and provide a platform for its Member States to express their views through various bodies and committees such as the General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council.

The primary objectives of the United Nations are to uphold world peace and security, promote goodwill among nations, and advance social progress, improved living conditions, and human rights.

To achieve these goals, the UN focuses on four main areas: maintaining global peace, fostering cooperation among nations, assisting countries in addressing poverty, hunger, disease, and illiteracy, and promoting respect for human rights and freedoms. It also serves as a central hub for coordinating national efforts towards these objectives.

The impact of the United Nations is felt worldwide, as it engages in a wide range of activities. In addition to providing food and support to millions of people in numerous countries, the organization plays a crucial role in vaccinating a significant portion of the world's child population, offering

aid and protection to millions of individuals fleeing persecution, starvation, and conflict, and undertaking various other initiatives.

4. Introduction to the Committee : INTERPOL



INTERPOL, formerly known as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC), is a global organization established in 1923 with its headquarters in Lyon, France. In 1956, it adopted its telegraphic address as its official name.

The primary objective of INTERPOL is to assist law enforcement agencies in its 196 member countries in combating serious crimes. By providing resources, expertise, and investigative assistance, INTERPOL aids countries in conducting cross-border investigations and enhancing border security.

As the largest police organization globally, INTERPOL operates seven regional offices worldwide, along with a National Central Bureau in each member country. Member nations have direct access to INTERPOL's extensive databases containing information on criminals and criminal activities.

Moreover, INTERPOL issues alerts to law enforcement agencies worldwide regarding criminal threats, potential dangers, individuals

sought for terrorism, and other criminal activities. One of its most well-known alerts is the Red Notice, which serves as an international request for arrest.

In summary, INTERPOL plays a crucial role in facilitating global police cooperation and contributing to a safer world.

5. Key Terminology

Consigliere : a person who serves as an adviser or counselor to the leader of a criminal organization

Underboss : a boss ranking next below the head of a branch of a crime syndicate

Caporegime, Capo : a high-ranking member of a crime family in the Mafia who heads a "crew" of soldiers and has significant social status and influence in the organization

Bandit : a robber or outlaw belonging to a gang and typically operating in an isolated or lawless area.

Highwayman : a holdup man, especially one on horseback, who robbed travelers along a public road.

Pirate : a person who attacks and robs ships at sea

Victorian era : a period in British history during the reign of Queen Victoria in the 19th century

Criminology : the study of crime and criminal behavior

Underworld : the world of criminals or of organized crime.

Transnational organized crime: organized crime coordinated across national borders, involving groups or markets of individuals working in more than one country to plan and execute illegal business ventures. In order to achieve their goals, these criminal groups use systematic violence and corruption.

Syndicate: a group of individuals or organizations combined to promote a common interest.

Market Distortion: Market distortion is any situation in which the prices of goods and services on the market are influenced by anything other than the natural forces of supply and demand.

SOC: Serious and Organised Crime.

Counterfeit: made in exact imitation of something valuable with the intention to deceive or defraud.

Extortion: the crime of obtaining something from someone, especially money, by using force or threats.

6. Understanding Organized Crime

6.1. Definition

A multinational, national, or local organization of centralized businesses that operate to participate in unlawful activity—usually for financial gain—is referred to as organized crime. Certain criminal organizations, like terrorist groups, rebel forces, and separatists, have political motivations, despite the fact that organized crime is typically perceived as a type of illicit commerce. Numerous criminal organizations

use terror and dread to further their objectives, keep control inside the group, and sometimes even replicate the strategies employed by authoritarian regimes to hold onto power. Certain types of organized crime only exist to meet the demand for illicit



commodities within a state or to enable the trade of items and services that may be prohibited by law (e.g., illegal weapons or drugs).

Numerous effective strategies employed by respectable commercial entities have been adopted by organized crime:

- The span of control is the small group of individuals under a supervisor's direct supervision
- The unit of command is a superior to whom one is directly accountable
- The definition principle is the explicit specification of authority and duty
- The objective principle, which identifies the goal of the company or venture (such as drug use, extortion, gambling, and murder for hire)
- A hierarchical pyramid in which key choices are made at the top and commands are sent down the pyramid
- Employees only communicate with their immediate supervisor and peers due to insulation and the need-to-know concept

6.2. Characteristics

"Those involved, normally working with others, in continuing serious criminal activities for a substantial profit" . Extortion, obtaining protection money from wealthy businesses, contract killing, abduction, financing of motion pictures, human trafficking, trafficking in human organs, trafficking in drugs, smuggling, and the illegal trade in arms and ammunition are all part of organized crime.

- Displays consistency over extended periods of time and has an eternal nature.
- Employs long-term, tactical, and strategic planning to accomplish organized crime's objectives.
- Regulated by laws and confidentiality codes
- The goal of monopolizing goods and services
- Possesses a structured hierarchy
- Employs coercion and threats

- Limits participation
- Delivers illicit goods and services in response to public demand and makes large sums of money through dishonest means
- Uses corruption as a means of control and immunity
- Produces a job-specialized division of labor
- Engages in money laundering, places gains in legitimate companies, and tries to exert influence over these companies
- Demonstrates the capacity to adjust to shifts in the market, law enforcement, and competition participates in multiple illegal activities
- Uses legitimate companies as a cover for illicit activities

Consistency

The criminal organization is set up to withstand changes in leadership and continues to operate after the deaths of its individual members. The group continues to commit crimes on a regular basis. These are not transitory group formations. However, the groups have been around for a while. Similarly, compared to children of "general" offenders, children of organized crime offenders seem to be far more likely to follow in their parents' footsteps, according to preliminary study.



Composition

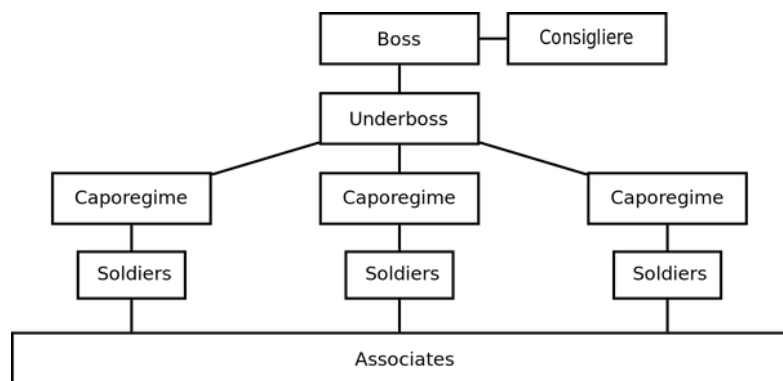
The criminal organization is composed of individuals who are interdependent and ordered hierarchically with a specific purpose in mind. The fact that the ranks are determined by authority and power makes them distinct. Article 2 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime further states that a structured group is

defined as one in which membership continuity is crucial but not mandatory, and that the group is not formed at random with the intention of committing an offense right away.

Organizational Structure

Organized crime operates similarly to a corporation. They designate a leader who has a hierarchical structure and is supported by other members. Appointing members is based on a variety of factors, including expertise and rapport with current members.

Group continues to perpetrate crimes on a regular basis. As a result, the hierarchy of organized crime is composed of tiers of



authority that go from lowest to highest and are based on a system of well defined connections with reciprocal rights and obligations. There are several key players in organized crime: a leader, advisers who assist the boss and delegate jobs to various crews, captains who oversee the various crews, soldiers who handle the grunt work and carry out missions ranging from extortion to murder, and guys with specialized knowledge.

Centralized Power

The foundation of organized crime is centralized power and control, which might be held by one person or a small group of people. The group leader is respected by all. Nobody in the group disobeys the leader's instructions. Members prioritize the organization over their own well-being and that of their families.

Participation

The core criminal group has limited membership, which is determined by



shared characteristics like race, criminal history, or hobbies. Prospective members must demonstrate their value and allegiance to the criminal organization under intense scrutiny. Secrecy, a readiness to do

any deed for the group, and the desire to defend the group are among the requirements for membership. The member obtains financial advantages, a certain level of prestige, and defense against police enforcement in exchange for their loyalty.

Collaboration

A gang of criminals who have been associated for a long time—possibly decades—are considered to be involved in organized crime. Members treat one another with the utmost respect, act honorably toward one another, and never cause one another any damage. Members owe one another and reciprocate by offering services to one another. Members prioritize the organization over their own well-being and that of their families.

Reliability

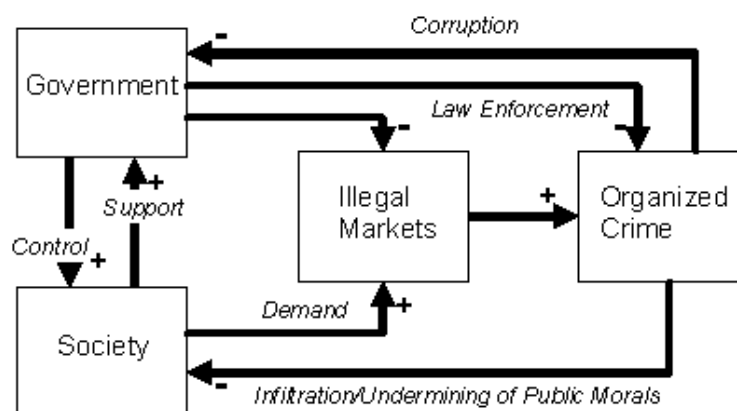
There is a great level of secrecy inside organized crime groups. Only those in positions of authority are aware of the crimes that must be done; occasionally, even low-level criminals are unaware of their boss's identity. The person in charge gives orders to the second in command, who may then provide orders to other members of the group to conduct the crime. It's possible that the group's members are ignorant of one another.

Separation of labor

Delegation of tasks and responsibilities as well as function specialization are aspects of organized crime. Members divide up the work according to their ability levels. The members carry out their tasks and responsibilities as defined professionals. The accomplishment of the group's objective depends on knowledgeable people or specialized support, according to organized crime groups and those defending them. The specialist provides temporary, ad hoc assistance to the criminal groups. Nevertheless, they are regarded as a component of organized crime. Pilots, chemists, hijackers, gunmen, and arsonists are among the specialists.

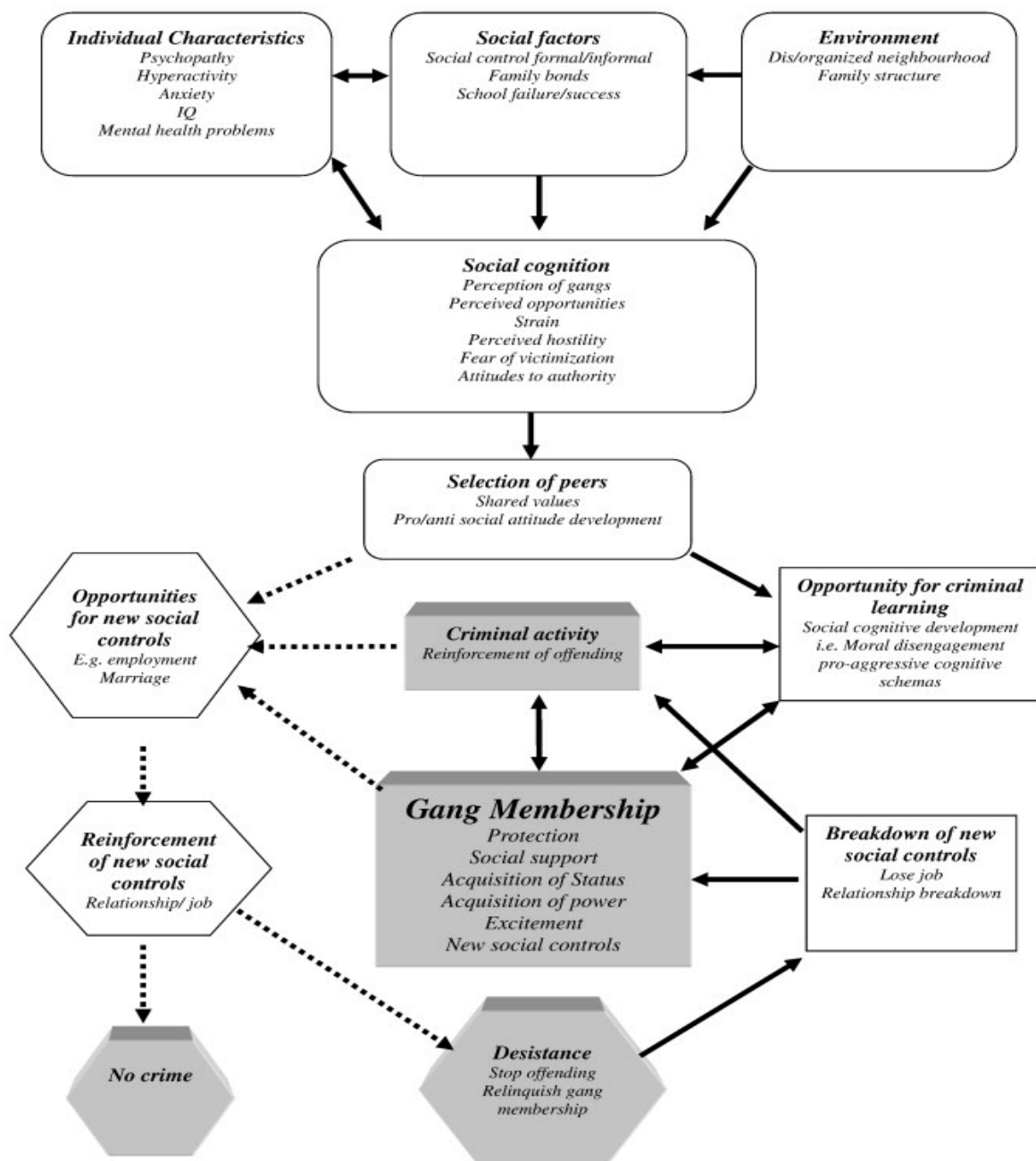
Defenders

Permanent protection against intervention by law enforcement and other government agencies is arranged by organized crime. Contacts with police officers, attorneys, physicians, legislators, judges, and other powerful figures in the community are among the defensive measures. Corrupt public servants, legislators, lawyers, and businesspeople violate the law, abuse their position of authority, and act individually or collectively to shield the criminal organization. The primary weapon used by the criminal protectors is corruption. A network of dishonest authorities serves as a criminal organization's first line of defense against the criminal justice system. Giving money in cash or as gifts, aiding in elections, threatening rivals, supplying helicopters, and planning their international travels are all examples of corruption.



6.3. Types of Organized Crime

The lending of money at extremely high interest rates, blackmail, assassination, backyard breeding, bombings, bookmaking and illicit gambling, confidence tricks, forging documents pertaining to early release from prison, intellectual property infringement, counterfeiting, metal theft, fencing, kidnapping, smuggling, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, posing as armored truck drivers, electoral fraud, insurance fraud, point shaving, price fixing, cargo theft via false pickup, illegal taxicab operation, illegal dumping of toxic waste, illicit trading of nuclear materials, and smuggling of military equipment are among the activities associated with organized crime.



In addition, organized crime groups engage in a variety of labor and business racketeering practices, including insider trading, skimming casinos, establishing monopolies in sectors like construction, garbage collection, and cement pouring, manipulating bids, obtaining "no-show" and "no-work" jobs, political corruption, and intimidation.

Street Gangs

The street gang is a type of gang that primarily operates in urban and suburban areas. Their formation is typically based on common interests or shared experiences, such as living in the same neighborhood, belonging to the same race, or having a similar social standing. Street gangs are notorious for engaging in violent crimes, theft, drug trafficking, and various other illegal activities. To distinguish themselves and establish their presence, street gang members often utilize distinct marks, colors, or graffiti. These serve as identifiers for their territory and facilitate interaction with fellow gang members. Additionally, they may adopt a unique language or slang, further reinforcing their sense of belonging to a particular group.

While many street gangs operate in a more democratic manner, with members collaborating to make decisions, others have a clear hierarchy and chain of command. Street gangs can vary greatly in terms of size and strength, ranging from small local factions to extensive networks spanning multiple cities or even entire countries.



The communities in which street gangs operate are significantly impacted by their presence. Increased gang activity is often associated with higher crime rates, leading to social unrest and instilling fear among the local population. Joining a gang typically perpetuates the cycle of poverty and criminality, as gang members face legal consequences and encounter limited opportunities for employment and education. Some of the most well-known street gangs include the Vice Lords, Gangster Disciples, Bloods, Crips, and various other racial gangs like Blood & Honour, The Latin Kings, Wa Ching, Zoe Pound, Sureños, Asian Boyz, Trinitario, The Hammerskins, and Nazi Lowriders.

Biker Gangs

Outlaw motorcycle clubs, commonly known as biker gangs, are associations centered around motorcycle culture and riding. These organizations, often with a global presence, distinguish themselves from traditional motorcycle clubs by participating in unlawful activities.



Members of biker gangs are easily identifiable by their distinctive attire, often consisting of leather jackets adorned with specific colors, emblems, and patches that represent their membership. Their motorcycles, typically powerful and robust models, play a significant role in defining their identity.

The hierarchical structure within biker gangs follows a defined chain of command and enforces strict rules that members must adhere to. With titles such as "president" and "sergeant-at-arms," they often operate in a paramilitary manner and have rigorous initiation processes for new recruits.



While biker gangs may partake in socially conscious activities such as organized rides and gatherings, they can also be involved in organized criminal operations like drug trafficking and violent crimes. However, it is important to note that not all

members engage in illegal activities.

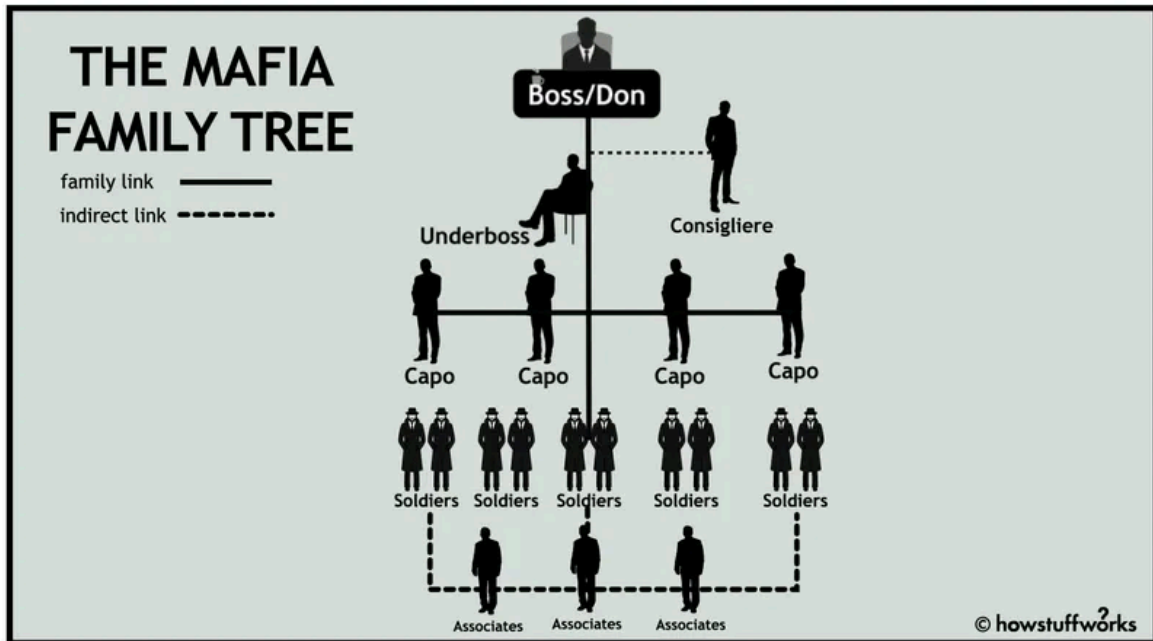
Some notable examples of biker gangs include Vagos Motorcycle Club, Hells Angels, Sons of Satan, Devils Disciples Motorcycle Club, Diablos, Rebels, Pagan's, Bandidos and Sons of Anarchy.

Mafia

The Mob, also known as the Mafia, is a highly organized criminal network that operates on a global scale. Initially confined to the Sicilian Mafia, the term "Mafia" now encompasses various groups with similar strategies and objectives.



Originating in Sicily, Italy, during the mid-1800s, the Mafia has expanded its operations worldwide, with a presence in the United States, South America, Australia, and other parts of Europe.



Mafia syndicates are involved in a wide range of illegal activities, including racketeering, drug trafficking, gambling, extortion, and loan sharking. They are notorious for employing violence, including murder, to advance their goals.

These criminal organizations adhere to a strict hierarchical structure, with a "boss" at the top, supported by advisors and an underboss. Capos, or captains, oversee specific rackets or territories, while



soldiers, the lowest-ranking members, carry out daily criminal operations.

Despite their illicit activities, Mafia groups often uphold a code of honor, which includes a vow of silence known as "omertà" to evade law enforcement. This code, coupled with their ability to intimidate or infiltrate

public figures, has made it exceedingly difficult for law enforcement agencies to effectively combat these organizations.

Notable Mafia groups include Cosa Nostra in Sicily, The Five Families in New York, and Sointsevskaya Bratva in Moscow.

Terrorist Organizations

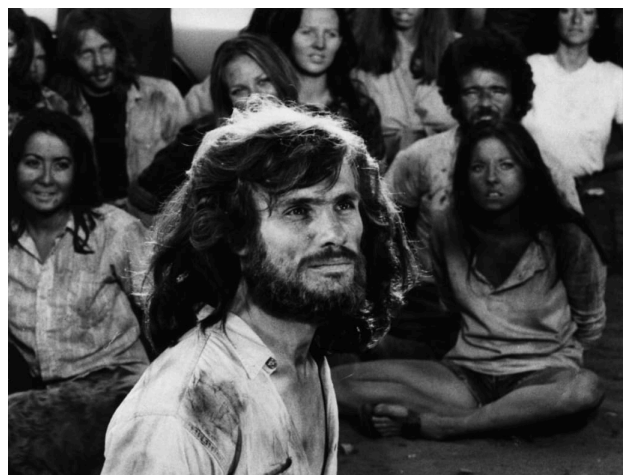
Terrorist groups are usually made up of individuals who are not affiliated with any state and aim to spread fear through the deliberate and organized use of violence or the threat of violence. Their actions are typically carried out to achieve political, ideological, religious, or socioeconomic objectives by influencing a wider audience beyond the immediate victims.

These groups can operate at a local, national, or even international level, and the impact of their activities can be far-reaching. They often employ tactics such as hijackings, shootings, bombings, and kidnappings. In addition, some engage in cyberterrorism.

The CIA has identified several terrorist groups, including Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, Continuity Irish Republican Army, ISIS, and PKK.

Criminal Cults

Criminal cults are often secretive groups that violate the law and carry out illegal activities. Typically, the influential leader of these organizations manipulates the other members. They commonly use deceptive tactics to exploit their followers and claim to possess special insights or powers.



These cults can commit a wide array of crimes, including theft, fraud, drug trafficking, and even more serious offenses like murder. They often use intellectual, philosophical, or religious arguments to justify their actions and pressure their followers into compliance.

Members of criminal cults frequently experience physical violence, social isolation, and psychological manipulation. They may be coerced into participating in illegal activities, and those who attempt to leave the group may face severe consequences.



It is important to note that not all cults are harmful or illegal. The term "cult" itself is contentious and subjective. However, a group is considered a criminal cult if its members engage in illegal behavior and cause harm to others or society.

Examples of such groups include The Manson Family, Adnan Oktar's Cult, The Heaven's Gate, Children of God, and The Rajneeshees.

Yakuza

Similar to the Mafia in the West, the Yakuza is the term used to describe Japan's organized criminal groups. These syndicates are known for their strict codes of conduct, which have been in place since the 17th century.

Yakuza groups operate in a hierarchical structure, with the boss, known as the "oyabun," at the top and the members, known as "kobun," at the bottom. Members often display their loyalty through full-body tattoos, symbolizing their commitment to the group and its leader.

Involved in various illegal activities such as gambling, drug trafficking, and loan sharking, the Yakuza also engage in white-collar crimes like cybercrime and



insider trading. Despite their criminal activities, they are also involved in legitimate businesses and community service, adding complexity to their reputation in Japanese society.

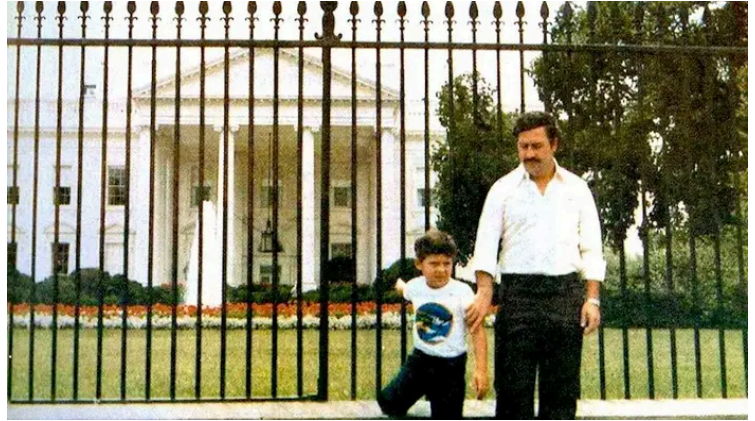
It is important to recognize that while the Yakuza have a notorious reputation, they are deeply rooted in Japanese society and culture, with groups like Yamaguchi-gumi, Sumiyoshi-kai, Inagawa-kai, and Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi being prominent examples.

Cartel

A cartel refers to an organized group that is involved in the production and distribution of illegal goods, primarily drugs. These cartels operate in

various countries across the globe, but they are particularly prevalent in Latin America due to their significant influence and power.

Cartels are infamous for resorting to violence and corruption in order to maintain their operations and avoid detection by law enforcement agencies. They partake in a wide range of illicit activities, including drug trafficking, extortion, money laundering, and even murder.



Some well-known examples of cartels include the Medellin Cartel, Sinaloa Cartel, Gulf Cartel, Los Zetas, and Juarez Cartel.

7. Global Impact and Consequences of Organized Crime

Numerous facets of society, the economy, and governance are affected globally by organised crime. Here are a few significant ways that it impacts the world:

Economic Impact: Trafficking in drugs, people, counterfeit goods, extortion, and money laundering are just a few of the illicit operations carried out by organised criminal gangs. While these operations yield enormous profits, they also cause market distortion, impede the operations of lawful enterprises, and divert resources from the formal economy.

A very known example illustrating this aspect of organised crime is the Sinaloa Cartel, led by notorious figures like Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, which is one of the most infamous drug trafficking organizations in Mexico.

It controls a significant portion of the illegal drug trade, particularly in cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine, generating billions of dollars in revenue annually and causing a distortion in the markets.

Social Impact: By encouraging violence, corruption, and intimidation, organised crime plays a role in creating social instability. Homicides, assaults, and other violent crimes are frequently more common in areas where organised crime is rife. Furthermore, vulnerable groups like immigrants and marginalized communities are often targeted by organised crime groups for their illegal activities, which include forced labour and human trafficking.

For instance, The Sicilian Mafia, also known as Cosa Nostra, has long been entrenched in Italian society, particularly in regions like Sicily and Calabria. It has been associated with various criminal activities, including extortion, racketeering, and violence. The Mafia's influence extends beyond criminal enterprises, affecting local communities and institutions and fostering fear and instability.

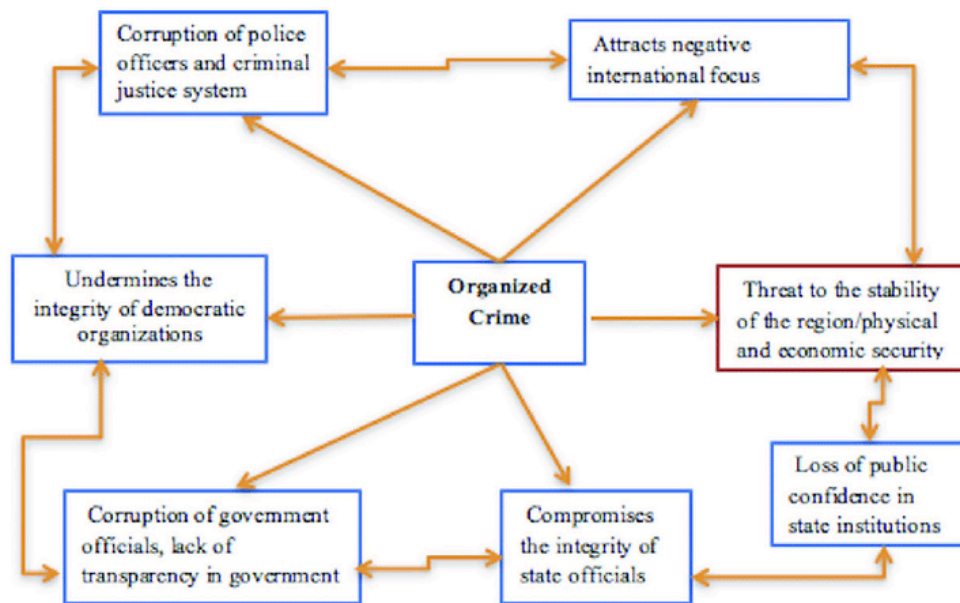
Below you can also see an illustration of the effect of organised crime both socially and economically on the United Kingdom:

SOC costs the UK c.£37 billion annually; it has a corrosive impact on our public services, communities, reputation and way of life



Political Impact: Through intimidation, compulsion, and corruption, organised crime may infiltrate political systems. It reduces public confidence in government, threatens democratic institutions, and undercuts the rule of law. In severe circumstances, organised crime groups may even have a major impact on public officials, legislative decisions, and election procedures.

To have a deeper understanding of this aspect, the following illustrates the various ways that organised crime has impacted politics in in the Caribbean region:



Another good example for this is the "Operation Car Wash" scandal in Brazil that exposed widespread corruption involving politicians, government officials, and business executives. It revealed how organized crime networks infiltrated political parties and government agencies, manipulating contracts and siphoning off billions of dollars from state-owned enterprises.

Security Impact: Both international and national security are seriously threatened by organised crime. It exacerbates hostilities, throws regions into instability, and blocks initiatives to advance security and peace. Transnational organised crime networks frequently operate internationally, taking advantage of jurisdictional gaps and creating difficulties for international cooperation and law enforcement.

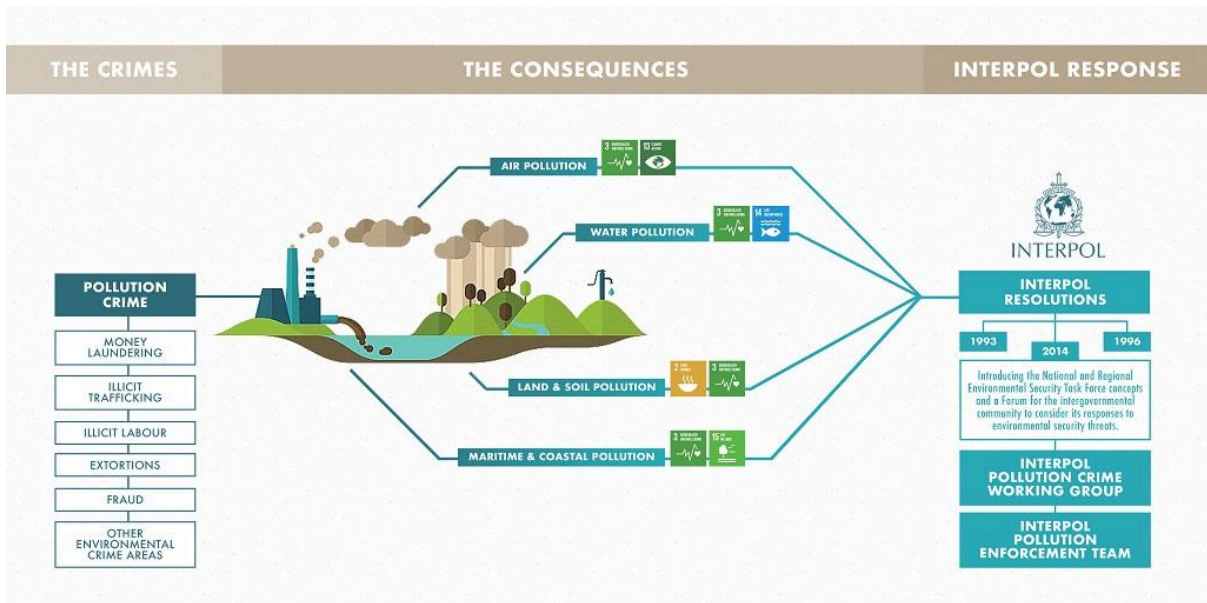
Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio 18 (Mara 18), for instance, are transnational gangs originating in Central America, particularly in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. These gangs engage in a range of criminal activities, including drug trafficking, extortion, and human trafficking. Their operations contribute to high levels of violence and insecurity in the region.

Another well known event where the threat of organised crime on security can be witnessed would be the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack in the United States of America. These attacks carried out by al-Qaeda demonstrated the capacity of transnational terrorist networks to inflict mass casualties, prompting significant changes in global security strategies and highlighting the interconnectedness of various security threats. These attacks caused over 3000 casualties, around 500 billion dollars in economic cost and a terrific damage in infrastructure.

Environmental Impact: Illegal fishing, animal trafficking, and logging are only a few of the environmental crimes committed by organised crime groups. These actions endanger biodiversity and ecosystem stability by causing deforestation, the extinction of species, and environmental degradation.

To give an example, poaching syndicates in Africa, such as those involved in the ivory trade, have devastated wildlife populations, particularly elephants and rhinoceroses. Organized crime groups profit from the illegal trade in ivory, rhino horn, and other wildlife products, driving these species and many others towards extinction and disrupting fragile ecosystems.

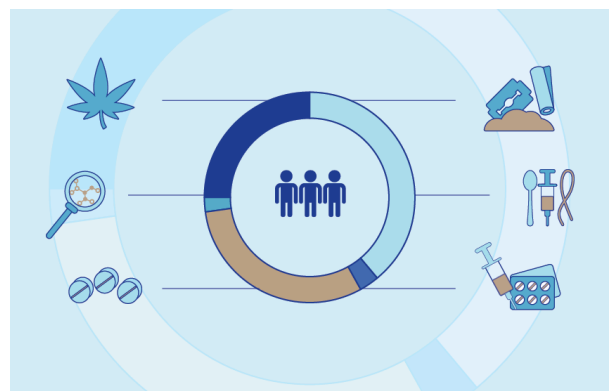
Below, we can see how different angles of organised crime can affect the environment:



Health Impact: Illegal drug trafficking has a significant negative impact on health and is closely associated with organised crime. Drug trafficking contributes to the spread of infectious diseases including hepatitis and HIV/AIDS as well as addiction and overdose deaths. Additionally, there are serious threats to public health and safety from counterfeit medications made by organised crime gangs.

To better illustrate the huge impact of organised crime on health, we can take the opioid crisis in the United States of America as an example.

The crisis began in the 1990s with a first wave of deaths due to a rise in overdoses involving prescription opioids, including natural and semi-synthetic opioids and methadone. This was followed by a second wave in 2010 with a spike in heroin-involved deaths.



The opioid crisis in the United States has been fueled by the illicit production, distribution, and trafficking of prescription opioids and heroin. Pharmaceutical companies, drug traffickers, and criminal organizations have contributed to the overprescription of opioids and the proliferation of illicit opioid markets, leading to widespread addiction, overdoses, and, as seen, public health consequences.

8. Historical Background on Organized Crime

In contemporary times, there is a prevailing notion that crime is primarily associated with urban areas. However, throughout the course of human history, it was the rural regions that



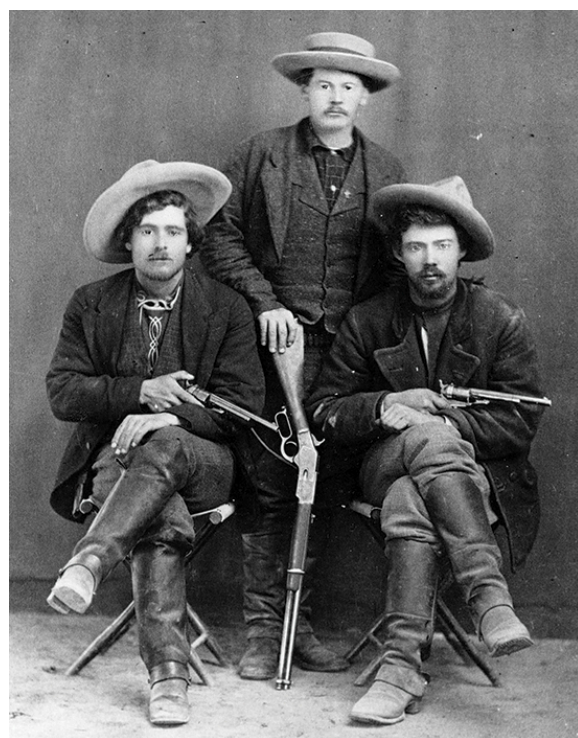
experienced the majority of criminal activities. This is mainly due to the fact that rural areas constituted the vast majority of inhabited places for a significant portion of human existence. Within the confines of a village, the residents were able to maintain low crime rates. Nevertheless, external



threats such as pirates, highwaymen, and bandits posed a significant challenge as they targeted trade routes and roads. Their actions often resulted in severe disruptions to commerce, leading to increased costs, insurance rates, and consumer prices. Criminologists compare piracy and banditry in the pre-industrial era to the role of organized crime in modern society.

During the Victorian era (19th Century), criminal enterprises and gangs emerged, eventually forming the foundation of London's criminal underworld. Within this underworld, these criminal societies established their own hierarchies and factions, often referred to as families. Composed mainly of individuals from the lower classes, these groups engaged in various illicit activities including pick-pocketing, prostitution, forgery, counterfeiting, commercial burglary, and even money laundering schemes. Notably, Victorian criminal societies also developed their own distinct slang and argots to differentiate themselves from one another, much like the street gangs such as the Peaky Blinders.

In the United States, organized crime gained prominence during the Old West era. Notable examples include the Cochise Cowboy Gang and the Wild Bunch. While the Cochise Cowboys operated with a loose structure, they stood out for their criminal endeavors along the Mexican border. Their operations involved stealing and selling cattle, as well as smuggling contraband goods between the two countries. Similar to organized crime syndicates, other gangs in the Old West, such as the Innocents gang, the Jim Miller gang, the Soapy Smith gang, the Belle Starr gang, and the Bob Dozier gang, operated in a manner that mirrored organized criminal activities.



The notion of gangs has existed for centuries. In ancient eras, gangs were frequently established to safeguard or dominate a specific region. The initial documented occurrence of a gang dates back to the late 17th century in England, when street gangs emerged due to the lack of efficient

law enforcement. In the United States, notable gangs began to emerge in the early 19th century, such as the Forty Thieves in New York City. These gangs often originated within marginalized communities as a means to safeguard their societies and attain economic benefits through unlawful methods.

Throughout history, terrorism has been present as a type of organized criminal activity. Its origins can be traced back to ancient times, where the Zealots of Judea emerged as one of the earliest known groups to employ tactics that can be identified as terrorism. These Zealots opposed the Roman occupation of Judea during the 1st century AD. Moving forward to more recent times, the 19th century witnessed the emergence of political terrorism. Notable organizations like the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Russian People's Will resorted to violent actions in order to attain their political objectives.

The Mafia, also referred to as La Cosa Nostra, was first established in Sicily during the 1800s. Originally created to safeguard local neighborhoods due to the lack of efficient law enforcement, these groups soon transformed into criminal enterprises engaged in various illicit operations, such as extortion and smuggling. The American Mafia came into existence in the late 1800s and early 1900s within Italian immigrant populations residing in prominent cities across the United States.



Criminal cults, although not as prevalent as other types of organized crime, have exerted a substantial influence on society. These organizations,

typically centered around captivating leaders, have engaged in various criminal endeavors, spanning from deceit and theft to homicide and large-scale suicides. Remarkable criminal cults encompass the Manson Family, under the guidance of Charles Manson, who persuaded his followers to commit a sequence of murders during the late 1960s, and the Aum Shinrikyo cult in Japan, responsible for a fatal sarin gas assault on the Tokyo subway system in 1995.

9. Previous Actions

9.1. Taken by INTERPOL:

When it comes to organising global law enforcement actions against organised crime, INTERPOL is essential. Below are a some of the actions that INTERPOL performed over the years:

- **Operation Infra-Red:** A worldwide effort to combat organised crime networks engaged in drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, and other illegal acts, Operation Infra-Red was started by INTERPOL in 2007. Numerous people were arrested as a result of the operation, which required coordinating law enforcement activities across international borders and disrupting criminal networks.
- **Operation Pangea:** Every year, INTERPOL conducts an operation aimed at stopping the internet distribution of illegal and counterfeit medications. This effort, which was started in 2008, entails working with pharmaceutical firms, regulatory bodies, and law enforcement agencies all across the world to locate and take down networks of counterfeit drugs and illicit internet pharmacies.
- **INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI):** an innovative facility in Singapore that was opened in 2014 by INTERPOL with the goal of combating cybercrime and using innovative law enforcement tactics together with digital forensics. . The IGCI serves as a hub for

coordinating international efforts to combat cybercrime, including online fraud, hacking, and the distribution of child sexual exploitation material.

- **I-Checkit Initiative:** Frontline officers have been given access to INTERPOL's secure global database of lost and stolen travel papers, which is intended to help combat document fraud and identity theft. The initiative was introduced in 2017. Through the implementation of this programme, border security is improved and organised crime organisations are prevented from using forged documents by giving authorities the ability to instantly confirm the authenticity of travel documents.
- **INTERPOL Firearms Programme:** Member nations of INTERPOL are supported in their efforts to combat illicit firearm trafficking and associated criminal activity. Law enforcement agencies can get training, technical support, and forensic help from this programme that helps in their investigations into crimes involving weapons, in tracking down illegal firearms, and in dismantling illicit arms trafficking networks.
- **INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme:** The goal of INTERPOL's Environmental Security Programme is to combat crimes relating to the environment, such as illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, and pollution. The programme makes it easier for nations to work together, develop their capacities, and take enforcement action against environmental crimes and safeguard natural resources.

9.2. Other Actions:

Other actions and initiatives have also been taken by the UN, EU and even governments to combat organised crimes. Here are some examples:

- **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC):** UNTOC is a major international convention that was adopted in 2000 with the goal of preventing transnational organised crime. It offers a framework for international cooperation in the prevention and prosecution of several types of organised crime, such as human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illicit firearm trafficking.
- **Palermo Convention:** Specifically designed to address human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and the trafficking of guns, the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, or Palermo Convention, is a supplement to the UNTOC. In order to combat these types of organised crime, it fortifies legal frameworks and promotes international collaboration.
- **EUROPOL:** The European Union's law enforcement organisation was founded in 1998 and is entrusted with supporting its member nations in the fight against terrorism and severe international crime. It makes information exchange, intelligence analysis, and operational support for law enforcement agencies in member governments easier.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** FATF is an intergovernmental body that was founded in 1989 with the goal of preventing the funding of terrorism and money laundering. In order to combat financial crime, it establishes global standards and encourages the efficient application of legislative, regulatory, and operational measures.
- **Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S):** JIATF-S is a military task force of the United States that was formed to find, track, and stop illegal drug, weapon, and other trafficking in the Eastern Pacific

and Caribbean Seas. In order to dismantle international networks of organised crime, it collaborates with authorities and partner countries.

- **UN Security Council Resolutions:** The UN Security Council has adopted several resolutions addressing specific forms of organized crime, such as Resolution 1373 (2001), which focuses on preventing and combating terrorism financing, and Resolution 2195 (2014), which addresses the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.







10. Questions to be Answered

- What are the main obstacles and challenges hindering effective international cooperation in combating organized crime?
- How can member states enhance information sharing and intelligence cooperation?
- What measures can be implemented to strengthen border security and prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods, drugs, and human trafficking?
- How can INTERPOL facilitate coordination and collaboration among law enforcement agencies from different countries?
- What role can technology and digital tools play in improving law enforcement efforts against organized crime?
- How can international legal frameworks and extradition agreements be strengthened?
- What strategies can be employed to address the root causes of organized crime?
- How can INTERPOL support capacity-building efforts in developing countries to enhance their ability to combat organized crime effectively?

- What role should civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector play in supporting international efforts to combat organized crime?
- What measures can be taken to protect vulnerable populations, such as migrants and refugees, from exploitation by organized crime groups?

11. Further Research

It is highly recommended to look at the resources listed below :

- [Sons of Anarchy \(TV Series 2008–2014\)](#)
- [The Godfather \(1972\)](#)
- [Narcos \(TV Series 2015–2017\)](#)
- [Peaky Blinders \(TV Series 2013–2022\)](#)
- https://www.wikiwand.com/en/History_of_terrorism
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144507>
- <https://icclr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/GITOC-The-future-of-international-cooperation-against-transnational-organized-crime.pdf?x34993>
- <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/international-cooperation-combating-transnational-organized-crime>
-  [How has INTERPOL's role in the fight against organised crime ev...](#)
-  [Full Episode: Cults, Explained | Netflix](#)
-  [How Prohibition Created the Mafia | History](#)
-  [The Yakuza - Mafia of Japan](#)
-  [How The Hells Angels Actually Works | How Crime Works | Insider](#)
-  [Transnational Organized Crime](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sio9kNnDXwc>
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40797-020-00128-x>
- <https://ocindex.net/report/2023/03-global-overview-results.html>

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UNODC's Official Website. Economic Impact

[Transnational organized crime: the globalized illegal economy \(unodc.org\)](#)

The Conversation. Social Impact.

[How organised crime affects the most vulnerable communities \(theconversation.com\)](#)

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[Organized Crime, Captured Politicians, and the Allocation of Public Resources | The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

UNODC's Official Website. Security Impact.

[Organized crime has globalized and turned into a security threat \(unodc.org\)](#)

UNODC's Official Website. Environmental Impact.

[The impact of crimes that affect the environment on natural carbon sinks and ecosystems resilience \(unodc.org\)](#)

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INTERPOL's official website. I-Checkit Initiative.

<https://www.interpol.int/en/How-we-work/Border-management/I-Checkit>

INTERPOL's official website. INTERPOL Firearms Programme.

<https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Firearms-trafficking/Firearms-what-we-do>

INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme.

<https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Environmental-crime/Our-response-to-environmental-crime>

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and Palermo Convention.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>

EUROPOL.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/>

Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S).

<https://www.jiatfs.southcom.mil/>

UN Security Council Resolutions.

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>