CONTENTS

Preface xvii

Chapter 1 UNDERSTANDING ORGANIZED CRIME 1

Introduction 1

The Book’s Focus 4


Definitions of Organized Crime 6

Law Enforcement and Government Definitions 6

International Definitions 7

Definitions in the Scholarly Literature 8

The Empirical Research 10

Is There a “Working” Definition of Organized Crime? 11

Redefining Organized Crime 11

Globalization and Organized Crime 12

The Criminal Group 13

Organizing for Profit 14

Profit-Making Enterprises of Organized Crime 14

Organized Crime Networks or Transnational Mafias? 14

Organized Crime: Attributes, Characteristics, and Structure 15

“Groups” of Criminals 15

Bureaucratic or Network Structure? 16

The Cohesion of Criminal Organizations 18

Managing Relationships between Organized Crime Networks 18

Illicit Enterprise and Profit-Making 19

Forms of Organized Crime 19

Standard Hierarchy 19

Regional Hierarchy 21

Clustered Hierarchy 22

Core Group 23

Criminal Network 24

Problems Created by Organized Crime 24

Understanding the Mafia 25

Categories of Organized Criminal Behavior 26

Provision of Illicit Services 26

Provision of Illicit Goods 26

Conspiracy to Commit Crimes 26

Penetration of Legitimate Business 26
Contents

Extortion 27
Corruption 27

Definitions by Crime Commissions 27
Chicago Crime Commission 27
The Wickersham Commission 27
The Kefauver Committee 28
The McClellan Committee 28
The President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice 29
Pennsylvania Crime Commission 30

The Sicilian Seed 30
The Village Becomes Organized 30
The Camorra 31

Investigations into Organized Crime 31
Mussolini’s Mafia Purge 31
The Hennessey Incident in New Orleans 33
Landesco’s Organized Crime Investigation 35
The Castellammarese War 35
Thomas Dewey and the Mob 35
The Kefauver Committee 37
The Appalachian Incident 38
The Valachi Testimony at the McClellan Committee 40
Robert Kennedy’s Justice Department Task Force 42
Palermo’s Maxitrial 42
Giuliani’s Mafia Trials 44
Louis Freeh’s Mafia War 45
The Pizza Connection Case 45

Models of Organized Crime 45
Report of the President’s Commission on Organized Crime on Levels of Membership 45
Cressey’s Cosa Nostra Theory 48
Albini’s Patron–Client Theory 50
Smith’s Enterprise Theory 50
Ianni’s Kinship Group Model 51
Chambliss’s Crime Network Theory 53
Haller’s Partnership Model 53
Block’s Description of Enterprise and Power Syndicates 53

Nontraditional Organized Crime 54

Organizational Constraints 56
Reuter on Economic Constraints 56
Mastrofski and Potter on Organizational Constraints 57
Chapter 2  THEORIES OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR  63

Introduction  63
Alien Conspiracy Theory   64
Rational Choice Theory   65
Deterrence Theory   65
Psychological Traits and Criminality   66
   The Antisocial Personality   66
   The Dependent Personality   67
Learning Theories   69
   Miller on Gangs   69
   Sutherland on Differential Association   69
Social Disorganization Theories   70
   Relative Deprivation   70
   Bell’s Queer Ladder of Mobility Theory   71
   Merton’s Theory of Anomie   71
   Cloward and Ohlin on Differential Opportunity   71
   Taylor, Walton, and Young on Blocked Opportunity   72
Cultural Deviance Theories   72
   Culture Conflict   72
   Smith’s Enterprise Theory   72
Organizational Theory and Organized Crime   73
   Two Empirical Conclusions   74
   Social Implications of the Enterprise Model   75
Organized Crime as a Community Social Institution   76
   Alignment with Legitimate Business   76
   Benefits for Legitimate Business   76
   Illicit Income for Community Members   77
   Legitimate Employment Opportunities   78
   Community Acceptance of Organized Crime   78
   The Corruption Link   79
   Interfacing with the Community   81
What Have We Learned?   82
Do You Recognize These Terms?   82
Points of Discussion   82
Suggested Reading   83
Chapter 3 THE EVOLUTION OF ORGANIZED CRIME 84

Introduction 84

The Irish Immigration 85
The Political Machine (1830–1919) 86

The Early Drug Syndicates (1915–1930) 89
The Prohibition Era (1920–1933) 90

The Chicago Mob 91
Al Capone (1899–1947) 91
Capone’s Move to Chicago 91
Sam Giancana (1908–1975) 93
Ethnicity and Organized Crime in Large Cities 96

The New York Mob 97
The Masseria and Maranzano Assassinations 98
Lucky Luciano and New York’s New Order 98
Siegel, Lansky, and the New York–Las Vegas Connection 100
The Black Hand 102
The Unione Siciliana 103

Other Historic Figures in New York 104
Arnold Rothstein (1882–1928) 104
Dutch Schultz (1902–1935) 105
Frank Costello 107
Frank Erikson 108
Vito Genovese 109
Joseph Bonanno 111
Joseph Colombo 112
Carlo Gambino 113
Paul Castellano 113
John Gotti 114

The Philadelphia Crime Family 118
Philadelphia and the National Syndicate 119

What Have We Learned? 121
Do You Recognize These Terms? 121
Points of Discussion 121
Suggested Reading 121

Chapter 4 THE EVOLUTION OF ORGANIZED CRIME 122

Introduction 122

Historical Perspectives of Organized Crime in the South 122
Piracy and Pirates 123
Modern-Day Piracy 125
Land Pirates, Horse and Slave Thieves, Highwaymen, Marauders, and Train Robbers 126
Vice in the South 129
   Natchez-Under-the-Hill 129
New Orleans 130
   Gambling 131
   New Orleans Street Gangs 132
Procuring 133
   Prostitution 134
Bootlegging and Moonshining 135
What Have We Learned? 140
Do You Recognize These Terms? 140
Points of Discussion 140
Suggested Reading 140

Chapter 5 THE BUSINESSES OF ORGANIZED CRIME 141
   Introduction 141
Delivery of Illicit Goods and Services 143
Corruption 143
   Pornography 145
      Forms of Pornography 146
      Organized Crime and Pornography 146
Prostitution 147
   Types of Prostitutes 148
   The Pimp–Prostitute Relationship 150
   The “Clients” 151
   Human Trafficking and Sexual Slavery 151
      Organized Crime and Prostitution 152
Drug Trafficking 152
   Cocaine Traffic 152
   Heroin Traffic 152
   Synthetic Drug Traffic 153
   Marijuana Traffic 153
      The Distribution Chain 154
Drugs, Guns, and Armed Conflict 155
Contraband Smuggling 157
Counterfeiting Currency 159
Counterfeiting Consumer Goods 160
Gambling 160
   The Process 161
      Bookmaking 162
      The Effects of Illegal Gambling 164
Loan-Sharking 164
Environmental Crime 166
Trafficking in Gems and Gold 167
Business Racketeering 168
Marketplace to Negotiate 168
Reasons to Seek Legitimacy 168
Labor Racketeering 171
High-Tech Crime 174
Intellectual Property Rights Violations 176
Trafficking in Nuclear Material 178
Trafficking in Women and Children 178
Money Laundering 180
Money Laundering Defined 180
Current Money-Laundering Trends 180
The Money-Laundering Process 180
Money-Laundering Methods 181
Money Orders 183
Casinos 183
Bulk Cash Smuggling 184
Shell Companies and Trusts 184
Responding to Money Laundering 185
Legal Controls 185
Prison Corruption 186
Border Corruption 186
What Have We Learned? 187
Do You Recognize These Terms? 187
Points of Discussion 188
Suggested Reading 188

Chapter 6 THE ILLICIT DRUG TRADE 189
Introduction 189
Drug Control: A Brief History 190
Early Drug Regulation 191
The Impact of Drugs on Society 191
The Pervasiveness of Drug Abuse 192
Drugs and Crime 193
Drugs and Violence 194
Drugs and Income-Generating Crime 195
Drugs and Organized Crime 195
Players in the Drug Business 196
The Business of Drugs 197
Southeast Asia 197
The Opium Wars 198
The Golden Triangle 199
Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs 223
   The OMG–Organized Crime Link 225
   Organizational Structure 225
Membership 227
   Criminal Activity 227
   Biker Constitution and Bylaws 228
   Criminal Activity 229
   The Hell's Angels 230
   The Outlaws 231
   The Pagans 233
   The Bandidos 233
Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking and Prostitution 234
Prison Gangs 234
   Historical Background 235
   Nature of Prison Gangs 237
   Prison Gang Structure 238
   Membership 239
   Recruitment 239
   Mexican Mafia 239
   Nuestra Familia 241
   Texas Syndicate 241
   The Mexicanemi 242
   Aryan Brotherhood 242
   Black Guerilla Family 243
   Corruption of Prison Staff 244
   Gang Members in the Community 244
   Prison Gangs versus Street Gangs 245
Rural Organized Crime 246
   The Wholesale Market 247
   The Retail Market 248
Characteristics of Rural Organized Crime Groups 249
What Have We Learned? 249
Do You Recognize These Terms? 249
Points of Discussion 250
Suggested Reading 250

Chapter 8 A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE 251
Introduction 251
   Transnational Organized Crime 251
   International Changes and Organized Crime 253
      International Transportation and Criminal Organizations 253
      International Trade and Criminal Organizations 253
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Communications Technology and Criminal Organizations</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Financial Networks and Organized Crime</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globalization and the Consumption Society</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Changing Character of Organized Crime in a Global Economy</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Alliances and Modern Organized Crime</strong></td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Undermining Civil Society</strong></td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on Local Economies</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undermining State Legitimacy</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States within States</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Future Trends Affecting Criminal Organizations</strong></td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics of Production</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Ungovernability</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration Streams and Organized Crime</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border Porosity</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modern-Day Drug Trafficking</strong></td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombian Cocaine Trafficking—Historic Perspectives</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of the Medellin Cartel—Lessons Learned</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative Wholesaling Structure</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Changes in Colombia</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Growing Role of Mexican Drug Trafficking</strong></td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Variables of Influence in the Mexican Drug Trade</strong></td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fighting over “Turf”—Mexican Cartels</strong></td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Impact of “El Chapo”</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gulf Cartel</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Los Zetas—A Gulf Cartel Outgrowth</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sinaloa Cartel</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Juarez Cartel</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tijuana Cartel</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sonora Cartel</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The La Familia (the Family) Michoacana Cartel</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official Corruption in Mexico</strong></td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Drug-Trafficking Organizations</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Small Corner of the World: Organized Crime in the Triborder Area</strong></td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography, Society, and the Economy of Crime</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Corruption</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizing Crime in the TBA</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized Crime Enterprises in the TBA</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Organized Crime</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Chinese Organized Crime</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Triad Hierarchy  287
The Japanese Yakuza  288
Vietnamese Gangs  290
European Organized Crime  290
Europe's Shadow Economy  292
Italy's Historic Mafia Wars  293
Russian Organized Crime  294
Balkan Criminal Enterprises  300
African Organized Crime  300
Issues Related to Organized Crime Facing Africa  308
Eastern Africa  308
Arms Trafficking  310
East African Drug Trafficking  311
Trafficking in Humans  312
Somali Pirates  312
Corruption  315
Albanian Drug-Smuggling Networks  315
What Have We Learned?  315
Do You Recognize These Terms?  316
Points of Discussion  316
Suggested Reading  316

Chapter 9  TERRORISM AS ORGANIZED CRIME  317
Introduction  317
An Overview  317
Terrorism Defined  318
Who Are the Terrorists?  319
Understanding the Terms  320
Forms of Terrorism  321
Trends in Terrorism—Growth and Expansion  322
The ISIS Business Strategy  324
The ISIS “Brand”  324
Boko Haram  325
The Taliban  326
Fulani Militants  326
Al-shabaab  327
Terrorists Attacks in Western Countries  327
Lone Wolf Terrorists  328
Why People Become Foreign Fighters for Violent Extremists Groups  329
The Refugee Crisis and Terrorism  330
The Economic Costs of Terrorism  331
Changes in Terrorism  332
Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons 333
Infoterrorism 334
International Terrorism 334
Middle Eastern Terrorists 337
  The Muslim Brotherhood 338
  Al-Shabaab 341
  Abu Sayyaf Group 342
  HAMAS 343
  Hizballah 344
  Terrorist Sleeper Cells 345
Latin American Terrorists 346
State-Organized Crime 346
Domestic Terrorism 347
  The Bombing in Oklahoma City 349
The Ideological Left 350
The Ideological Right 351
  Domestic Terrorism: White Supremacist and Hate Groups 352
The Birth of Militias 353
Triggering Events 354
  Other Domestic Terrorist Groups 355
Single-Issue Terrorist Activity 357
  Antiabortion Activists 357
  Crime-Related Events 358
The Media’s Role in Terrorism 359
Controlling Terrorism 359
The 1996 Antiterrorism Bill 359
The 2001 USA Patriot Act 360
The Homeland Security Act of 2002 360
The REAL ID Act of 2005 360
What Have We Learned? 361
Do You Recognize These Terms? 361
Points of Discussion 361
Suggested Reading 362

Chapter 10 ORGANIZED CRIME’S POLITICAL AND CORPORATE ALLIANCES 363
Introduction 363
Corporate Scandals of the Twenty-First Century 364
The Connection 366
Organized Crime and the Political System 366
The Mob and John F. Kennedy 368
  John F. Kennedy’s Political Debts 369
Organized Crime and Richard Nixon  372
  The Teamsters Endorsement  372
Organized Crime Links with Ronald Reagan  373
  Senator Paul Laxalt  374
  Roy Williams  375
  Reagan and the International Longshoremen's Association  375
  Raymond Donovan  376
  Other Reagan Administration Ties to Organized Crime  376
  Payback  377
Organized Crime and the Business Community  378
  Reciprocity  378
The Worlds of Meyer Lansky  379
  More on Las Vegas  382
  The Move to Florida  382
  Cuba  383
  The Banks  383
  The Bahamas  384
Organized Crime, the CIA, and the Savings and Loan Scandal  384
  First National Bank of Maryland  385
  Palmer National Bank  385
  Indian Springs Bank  386
  Vision Banc Savings  386
  Hill Financial Savings  387
  Sunshine State Bank  387
  Mario Renda, Lender to the Mob  387
  Full-Service Banking  387
International Activities  388
  Tax Havens  388
  The Industrialized World  388
  South America, Central America, and Mexico  388
    Mexico  389
    Honduras  389
    Guatemala  389
    Costa Rica and Nicaragua  389
    Argentina  389
Other Financiers  389
  Moe Dalitz  389
  The Teamsters and the Dorfmans  390
  Ed Levinson  390
  Reuben Sturman  391
  Were There Others?  391
Chapter 11 CONTROLLING ORGANIZED CRIME 394

Introduction 394
The Police Response 394
Police Jurisdiction 395
Controlling Police Actions 395
The Constitution and the Police 395
Undercover Operations and Surveillance 396
Informants 397
Intelligence Operations 398
Intelligence Investigations versus Criminal Investigations 400
Intelligence Agencies 400
The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) 400
Improving Intelligence Investigations 401
Legal Initiatives Against Organized Crime 402
The 1986 Money Laundering Control Act 402
The 1988 Chemical and Diversion and Trafficking Act 403
The USA Patriot Act of 2001 403
The Internal Revenue Code 403
Electronic Surveillance 404
Asset Forfeiture 404
Advantages of Civil Forfeiture 405
Forfeiture of Attorney’s Fees 406
The Rico Statute 407
Offenses under RICO 408
Pattern of Racketeering Activity 408
Disadvantages of RICO 408
Advantages of RICO 408
The Continuing Criminal Enterprise Statute 409
Conspiracy Laws 409
The Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act 411
Multijurisdictional Task Forces 411
The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force 411
The Investigative Grand Jury 412
The Statewide Grand Jury 413
The Witness Security Program 413
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

Instructor’s Manual with Test Bank. Includes content outlines for classroom discussion, teaching suggestions, and answers to selected end-of-chapter questions from the text. This also contains a Word document version of the test bank.

TestGen. This computerized test generation system gives you maximum flexibility in creating and administering tests on paper, electronically, or online. It provides state-of-the-art features for viewing and editing test bank questions, dragging a selected question into a test you are creating, and printing sleek, formatted tests in a variety of layouts. Select test items from test banks included with TestGen for quick test creation, or write your own questions from scratch. TestGen’s random generator provides the option to display different text or calculated number values each time questions are used.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
I would like to thank Lynn DeSpain, Regis University; Alicia Schmidt, Missouri Valley College; and Carter Smith, Middle Tennessee State University for reviewing the manuscript.