

BAALMUN'25

JCC: La Mafia

Study Guide

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Letter from Secretariat

Most esteemed Participants, the Academic and the Organization team, Advisors and Guests,

As the Secretariat of BAALMUN'25, it is our utmost pleasure to announce that we are back, better than ever and waiting for each of our delegates with open arms. We welcome you to this prestigious, vibrant and intellectually stimulating platform of BAALMUN'25.

We are on the edge of our seats to host BAALMUN'25 on 21-22-23 February 2025 in our home, Beşiktaş Atatürk Anatolian High School.

This year, BAALMUN aims to deliver beyond expectations, being a beacon of innovative thinking, and fostering an environment where diversity of thought converges to generate impactful solutions to the world's most pressing issues.

Our academic and organisation teams are working day and night to organise the best conference experience for our valued MUN society members. As the BAALMUN'25 team, from committees to activities, we are delicately combing our ideas and plans for BAALMUN'25 with a fine-toothed comb, doing everything in our power to provide our esteemed participants with a judgement-free platform where you can exchange ideas, challenge perspectives and craft solutions. We encourage every one of our participants to embrace this opportunity to learn and grow as a global citizen in BAALMUN'25.

As we embark on this journey together, let us embrace the spirit of collaboration, mutual respect, and open-mindedness. Your contributions and dedication will undoubtedly shape the success of BAALMUN'25.

We are so excited to see you at our conference, as our beloved leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk once said "Peace at home, Peace at the world!"

Best regards,

The BAALMUN'25 Secretariat

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1. Letter from the Under-Secretaries General

Dear lovers of the underground world and the GodFather

As the Under-Secretaries General of the *JCC - La Mafia* committee we are honoured to welcome you all to the latest organisation of the BAALMUN community. The La Mafia committee is a place dedicated to revealing the unseen rulers of the underworld.

Welcome to a world where shadows whisper secrets, loyalty is a double-edged sword, and justice and crime dance in a rhyme. Throughout these three days, you will step into the beating heart of Palermo - a city caught between the Mafia and the relentless pursuit of those who dare to stand against it, Italian authorities. This is not just a joint crisis committee but a battlefield, as you enter please put yourself in the shoes of one of the legendary fighters of the underground world. Some of you will become the unseen rulers of the underworld, whispering over glasses of Scillian wine, deciding fates with a single nod. Others will walk the narrow path of law and justice, aware that every hesitation could mean the difference between victory and another name carved into a gravestone. But in this city, nothing is black and white. Deals are stuck in the dark, betrayal comes from within. And the line between the hero and villain? It's thinner than a needle's edge.

Our fates are like sculptures, sculpted by every action we take. In this committee, your words will shape destinies, your actions will decide who rises and who falls. So choose wisely. Play your part, and remember Palermo never forgets.

Fiat iustitia, et pereat mundus.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact:

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2. Introduction to the Committee

Starting in 1978, La Mafia is a Joint Crisis Committee dedicated to reveal the underground world of Italy. The two lords of the underworld, Cosa Nostra and Camorra, have been rivals since their existence. When you play in mafia mode; every territory you enter, every word you speak and every glance you take means a lot and decides fates.

As the respected members of mafias, it is your mission to protect the honor with your actions and decisions while conducting the fight for being the ultimate authority. While the fight of *L'Onorata Societa* (Cosa Nostra) and *La Famiglia* (Camorra) continues, the official rulers of the Italian lands must operate clandestine actions to ensure the safety of their people. As the guarded protectors of Italians, the authorities have to be capable of thinking, deciding and acting faster than others in this competition.

Throughout these 3 days, be it underworld rulers or the ones who try to end the underworld it doesn't matter. Keep your senses sharp, align with the public, be the ultimate real authority of the territories.

3. Major Events

a. Origins of Camorra & Cosa Nostra

Believed to have originated in the 17th century in Naples, the Camorra, also referred as *La Famiglia* is an Italian mafia involved in extortion, illegal gambling, smuggling and many other crimes in the Italian lands. Unlike hierarchical mafia organizations, the Camorra developed as a loose confederation of clans that operated independently but maintained influence over Naples' economy and politics. By the end of the 1800s, the new power in the underworld had infiltrated law enforcement and local governments which solidified its presence in Neapolitan society.

On the other hand, the Camorra, also referred as *L'Onorata Societa*, emerged in the early 19th century in Sicily as a response to the island's weak central authority and law enforcement. It initially functioned as a *protection network* for landowners and traders, demanding tribute in exchange for security. Over time, it evolved into a highly structured criminal organisation with a rigid hierarchy, including the boss, underboss and soldiers. The Cosa Nostra gained power through extortion, smuggling, and later, the international drug trade, particularly in collaboration with American mafia families.

Fates of these two mafias shaped differently. The Camorra remained decentralized, thriving in Naples' chaotic urban environment while the Cosa Nostra developed into a structured and hierarchical mafia with significant political influence. Despite their differences, both organizations shaped Italy's criminal underground world and played key roles in international organized crime.

b. The First Mafia War

The First Mafia War (1962-1963) was a violent feud between rival Mafia clans in Palermo, culminating in the Ciaculli massacre on June 30, 1963, where seven law enforcement officers were killed. This event prompted a significant police crackdown, resulting in the arrest of nearly two thousand individuals. Still, it ultimately led to political and judicial failures, with many defendants acquitted due to insufficient evidence. The conflict was fueled by competition over control of narcotics and smuggling operations, marking a significant shift in Mafia activities. A fraud involving a heroin shipment ignited violent confrontations, leading to a series of bombings and murders that shocked the public.

The First Mafia War began with tensions between the Greco family, led by Giuseppe Greco, and the La Barbera brothers' clan, specifically Angelo La Barbera, driven by competition over drug trafficking and control of lucrative markets.

The fraud involving a heroin shipment occurred when a consignment of heroin, purchased by the Sicilian cartel, was transported from Egypt to the United States. Upon delivery in Brooklyn, the recipient, Bruno Martellani, discovered that the payment received from America did not match the agreed amount, indicating that a few kilos of heroin had gone missing during transit. This discrepancy led to an internal investigation within the cartel, escalating tensions and contributing to the conflict between rival factions.

The conflict escalated with the Ciaculli massacre, which highlighted the Mafia's reach beyond internal disputes, prompting a large-scale police response that ultimately failed to achieve lasting results, as many arrested were later acquitted. A car bomb, likely targeting the Greco family, exploded in Palermo, killing seven law enforcement officers. This attack aimed to assert Mafia power and retaliate against state interference.

In response to the massacre of Ciaculli, the Greco side assassinated Cesare Manzella, who was aligned with the La Barbera, on April 26, 1963, when a car bomb filled with TNT exploded in a citrus grove near Cinisi, Sicily. The attack was orchestrated by rival Mafia factions, specifically targeting Manzella due to his connections and influence within the drug trafficking operations.

Following the Ciaculli massacre, the bombing of Giovanni Di Peri's garage occurred on June 30, 1963. A Giulietta car filled with TNT was detonated outside the garage in Villabate, targeting Di Peri, who was a boss in the Greco family. The attack aimed to eliminate competition and assert dominance in the ongoing Mafia conflict, resulting in the deaths of two innocent bystanders.

The trials in Catanzaro (December 22, 1968) and Bari (June 10, 1969) were initiated as a response to the escalating violence and criminal activities of the Mafia during the First Mafia War, particularly following the Ciaculli massacre. Despite the extensive investigations led by Judge Cesare Terranova, nearly all defendants, including key figures like Totò Riina, were acquitted due to insufficient evidence. The results of these trials undermined the judicial efforts against the Mafia, leading to a lack of political will to combat organized crime effectively and allowing the Corleonesi faction to consolidate power in the aftermath.

The First Mafia War concluded with the Viale Lazio massacre on December 10, 1969, which symbolically marked the end of the conflict. This violent episode allowed the Corleonesi faction, under the leadership of Totò Riina, to rise to power and establish dominance over Cosa Nostra. The aftermath of the war led to the reorganization of Mafia clans and opened a new chapter in the history of the Sicilian Mafia.

4. Overview of the Italian Mafia

a. Camorra

i. History of the Camorra

The origins of the Camorra are unclear. It may date to the 17th century as a descendant of the Spanish secret society, the Garduña, though recent research suggests the Garduña was fictional, originating from a 19th-century novel. More likely, the Camorra developed in the 18th century from small criminal gangs in Naples. The first official use of "camorra" dates to 1735, referring to licensed gambling houses. The term likely derives from "capo" (boss) and the Neapolitan game "morra."

The Camorra emerged more distinctly between 1799 and 1815 during political instability in Naples. The first official mention as an organization appears in 1820, detailing a disciplinary tribunal called the Gran Mamma. A written statute from that year and another from 1842 indicate a structured organization. The Camorra, also known as the Bella Società Riformata or Onorata Società, evolved beyond street gangs into a structured entity.

In 1848, the Camorra allied with the liberal opposition against the monarchy, gaining political influence. Police chief Liborio Romano appointed Camorra leader Salvatore De

Crescenzo as head of the municipal guard. By 1869, Ciccio Cappuccio was elected head of the Camorra, demonstrating its entrenched power.

Following Italian unification in 1861, authorities sought to suppress the Camorra. The Saredo Inquiry (1900–1901) exposed a "high Camorra" involving political and economic elites. Though no direct collusion was proven, the inquiry highlighted systemic corruption. The Camorra's influence waned, marked by electoral defeats in 1901.

The Cuocolo Trial (1911–1912) was a major crackdown. It prosecuted Camorra leaders for the murder of Gennaro Cuocolo and his wife, alleged police informants. The trial, lasting 17 months, resulted in 27 Camorra bosses receiving a total of 354 years in prison. Enrico Alfano, the main defendant, was sentenced to 30 years.

Unlike centralized criminal organizations, the Camorra consists of independent clans controlling specific territories. Coordination exists mainly to prevent conflicts. A key strategy has been political patronage, enabling Camorra clans to act as intermediaries between local politicians and communities. This influence secured political favors in exchange for electoral support, allowing the Camorra to maintain power despite periodic crackdowns.

ii. Efforts to Fight the Camorra

In the 1970s, the Italian government intensified its efforts to combat the Camorra and other organized crime groups. The Antimafia Commission, established in 1963, played a pivotal role during this period. In May 1965, the Italian Parliament passed Law 575, titled "Dispositions against the Mafia," marking the first time the term "Mafia" was used in legislation. This law extended 1956 legislation concerning individuals considered to be "socially dangerous" to those "suspected of belonging to associations of the Mafia type." The measures included special surveillance; the possibility of ordering a suspect to reside in a designated place outside their home area; and the suspension of publicly issued licenses, grants, or authorizations. The law empowered public prosecutors or questors (chiefs of police) to identify and trace the assets of anyone suspected of involvement in a Mafia-type association.

Despite these legislative measures, the efficacy of the new law was severely limited. Firstly, because there was no legal definition of a Mafia association. Secondly, because the obligation for mafiosi to reside in areas outside Sicily opened up new opportunities to develop illicit activities in the cities of northern and central Italy. Amending this law during the next four decades was the main aim in the legislative fight against the Mafia. It was amended by the La Torre-Rognoni law in 1982 and by some cornerstone judgments of Italy's Supreme Court of Cassation. In 1975, Article 41-bis was introduced as an emergency measure to deal with prison unrest and revolts during the Years of Lead, a period characterized by widespread social conflicts

and terrorist acts carried out by extra-parliamentary movements. This article allowed for the suspension of certain prison regulations to prevent association and the exchange of messages between Mafia prisoners, aiming to break the chain of command between Mafia bosses and their subordinates. Throughout the 1970s, the Antimafia Commission conducted investigations into the activities and failed prosecutions of Mafia members, the administration of Palermo, and the links between the Mafia and banditry in the post-war period. In its March 1972 report, the Commission stated: "Generally speaking, magistrates, trade unionists, prefects, journalists, and the police authorities expressed an affirmative judgment on the existence of more or less intimate links between Mafia and the public authorities, some trade unionists reached the point of saying that 'the mafioso is a man of politics'." The Commission's main conclusion was that the Mafia was strong because it had penetrated the structure of the state.

Despite these efforts, the final report of the first Antimafia Commission, issued in 1976, had limited impact. The government did nothing, and when the results were published, every effort was made to confuse their message and diminish their value, and it was drowned in a sea of slander. The reports and the documentation of the Antimafia Commission were essentially disregarded. Cesare Terranova, a member of the Commission, referred to it as "thirteen wasted years."

b. Cosa Nostra

i. History of Cosa Nostra



The Sicilian Mafia, referred to by its own members as Cosa Nostra, a phrase meaning our thing, is an infamous association of criminal syndicates. They are famous for their heavy-handed role in protection racketeering, alcohol and drug smuggling, and other organized illegal activities across Italy, the United States and beyond.

The mafia began as little more than feudal peasants in 19th century Sicily. In the wake of unification there was barely any rule or law in Sicily, therefore peasants were viciously exploited by the local elites. Many Sicilians had no option but to turn to banditry to survive. At the turn of the 19th century, Sicily had been the domain of the ancestrally French Bourbon kings, who ruled the island and much of southern mainland Italy. Most of Sicily's previous dynasties had practiced a form of feudal rulership, and

the Bourbons were no exception. Under their rule, Sicilian land was exclusively in the hands of either the Catholic Church or feudal barons, who held vast estates and made up a tiny percentage of the population.

However, by the year 1812 this had begun to change. Primogeniture, the law by which a noble's domain is passed down to his firstborn son, was abolished, and the barons of Sicily began gradually selling off parcels of their land to the peasantry. Soon, over one-fifth of Sicilian land was made up of the small holdings of private citizens. As many Sicilians would resist the imposition of Italian rule and Italian laws, and take arms in the form of populist uprisings that raged from 1860 all the way to 1876, the violent upheaval born of this fighting further destabilized the region, and the poverty caused by the war drove many desperate and starving peasants to steal from Sicily's many new landowners. Unlike the old feudal barons who bought their own protection, these small landowning citizens were dependent on federal soldiers and policemen to safeguard their property, neither of which were able to effectively monitor private plots in the face of widespread political unrest across the island.

As a result, landowners started to hire the mafia to protect their properties from predatory attacks. The services provided to the upper classes gave the mafia legitimacy and power, which it then used to start an independent career and pursue its own interests. Eventually the landowners preferred to hire the best and most violent bandits as guardians of their properties, thus using the criminal reputation of one as a defence against the crimes of others and creating a sort of profession or career for the most daring criminals. As the mafia gave and received protection; and the more people asked for the criminals' help rather than for legitimate enforcement, the stronger they became.

The loose gangs of hired gunmen soon realized they were the only real authority in the region, and began taking advantage of the situation, turning against the people they were meant to protect, forcing many local farmers into their clientele under threat of violence. Landowners no longer had a choice in whether or not they would hire these contractors. Either they paid out a handsome sum for the protection of their estate, or they would suffer dire and violent consequences.

Far removed from being simple extortionists, Cosa Nostra was in time, starting to evolve into a dangerous cult, with deep tendrils in every facet of Sicilian society. The Mafioso were especially prominent among the owners of lemon groves. Introduced by the Arabs in the 9th century, lemons had quickly become a valued Sicilian export, and by the 19th century was the island's most lucrative cash crop. For instance, by 1855, over 2.5 million crates of Sicilian citrus made it to New York alone annually. However, they were a fickle plant, with even slight changes in soil acidity being able to sabotage an entire field. This made them especially easy for the Mafia to threaten, and doubly lucrative for them to own.

It was clear now that what had begun as a loose association of opportunistic brutes had evolved into something much deeper, born from the chaos of Sicily's upheaval. An entire society existing in the shadows, bound by blood. A society whose hooks sunk deep into the lives of countless men, women and children.

The 1880s saw Cosa Nostra power grow even further. Taurisi Colonna, the man who had first brought public attention to the Mafia some 20 years earlier, was elected mayor of Palermo in 1881. Supposedly a staunch opponent of Sicily's criminal overlords, in reality Colonna had been paid off by the very people who had tried to gun him down decades before. Heavy allegations pointed to a crooked mayor of a crooked city protecting mafioso from the law, even hiring a Mafia member as his chief of police. Colonna was just one of many public servants whom the Mafia had ingratiated themselves with. The mob's ability to pull powerful politicians into their pocket became a key strategy of theirs in the years to come, and an essential source of their growth as an organisation.

ii. Structure and Composition

By the 1800s, Italy had started transitioning to a modern economy, where free landowning farmers had replaced serfs. However, due to the division of land among children over generations, Sicily's small island size resulted in widespread poverty. Banditry and lawlessness became rampant. The Bourbon dynasty realized that sending soldiers to catch these bandits—who stole, murdered, and rustled livestock—would be costly and ineffective. So, they devised a different approach. Instead of fighting them, they would authorize them to act as law enforcers and in return, they would stop committing crimes. Essentially, they turned thieves into guards. The bandits readily accepted this offer. Over time, the local people also adapted to this system and consequently, this arrangement became a cultural norm.



In 1866, under Garibaldi's leadership, Italy was unified into a centralized nation-state. However, even in this new Italy, especially in the south, law enforcement and economic problems persisted. The land was excessively fragmented, and Italy lagged behind in industrialization. As a result, Sicilian villagers continued to rely on their self-protection system despite the central government, creating a parallel legal structure.

Parallel legal structures, such as elite or church laws, are not unique to the mafia. Historically, European countries have witnessed similar systems where problems were left for individuals to resolve. The mafia spirit emerged in southern Italy as a cultural response to violence. However, the mafia never refers to itself as "mafia." Official authorities use this term. When asked about their work, members of the mafia simply call it Cosa Nostra, meaning "Our Thing," similar to calling oneself a "freelancer." Unlike other criminal organizations, the mafia operates by a set of ethical codes, which must be adhered to. Since it originates from the people, it cannot survive without public support.

One of the mafia's key principles is minimizing bloodshed and operating within legal loopholes rather than outright breaking laws.

iii. Code of Conduct

Camorra, one of the most infamous and long-surviving criminal organizations of Italy, stands on its violence and the related complex organizational structure, woven with a strict implementation of a code that defines the way members act. The code, underpinning deep-rooted values of loyalty, secrecy, and hierarchical order, mainly recognizes *omertà*, translated into silence and non-cooperation, as the core principle. In the context of the Italian southern culture, particularly in rustic neighborhoods, *omertà* is a ring binding members never to inform any outsider on any internal activity, period, under a threat of punishment as severe as death. Thus, the cultural respect imposed on men, for instance, their honor, strength, and self-reliance, thrives mainly on masculinity. It extends the idea that members must shoulder their troubles themselves and not seek assistance from any law-enforcing authority or divulge their organization's secrets to bidders. The logic is that men of high regard will keep deep inside the group's honor by abiding by the code, never bringing internal shortcomings and battles out into the open. Such a code strengthens loyalty, with members protecting one another against hostile elements out in the real world. The Camorra is built in a very hierarchical fashion and is founded on strict compliance to its superiors. This set-up allows for seamless execution of orders, in accordance with maintaining the levels of discipline sufficient to work in secrecy and authority. At the top, a core group within that particular namespace possesses full sway over the structures, paving the way for those in charge to wield their control over the organization, offering directives to which compliance is given without questions. Hierarchical structures cannot just have an effect on the voluntary ties required in small everyday interactions throughout the organization but also on the administrative activity concerning the employees.

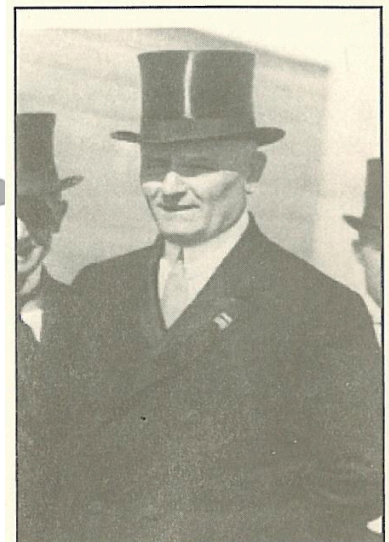
The virtue behind acts of loyalty, in the case of the Camorra, is a matter of pure survival. Betrayal of loyalty is considered one of the most severe crimes, and punishment is quick and severe to all such offenders. Members are expected to show steadily their total confirmation of the organization, which includes absolute loyalty to the persons higher up. Those who deviate

from the code, particularly by aiding the police in incriminating the group, come under vicious retribution. Very often the breach of complete silence is punishable with death, while those who escape immediate violence find themselves trapped under a cloak of fear and isolation from the group for the rest of their days.

Moreover, the code that the Camorra employs in running its day-to-day allows for minimum interference by authorities. This setup accepts that the men have individual jobs, which then interfere with the operations of the Camorra – one of the wider range of its many crimes beyond trafficking in narcotics, extortion, and money laundering. This environment that hinges on secrecy has ensured the continuation of Camorra's illegal activity in secrecy before the eyes of any law enforcement agency. The organization's existence, secured by a close-knit, loyal membership, ensures its flourishing existence without having to worry about infiltration attempts. By and large, the Camorra code remains pivotal to its remaining and extended existence. Of the uses the organization has come to expect from the many fully national Mafia structures that possess the violent discipline to remain unearthed, while this discipline has successfully allowed for a tight grip on its members or on its territories, or both, without likely concentrations of infiltration or trouble by cops. This tight grip, as applicable to betrayal, and the fear culture so deeply grounded upon ensure the resistance of Camorra to challenge its existence; together, the resilience of this organization then justifies its reputation as a very enduring criminal organization globally accepted.

iv. **Mussolini's War Against The Mafia**

Mussolini came to power in Italy in October 1922 in a manner the Mafia would have approved of: through a display of power that was clear but not showy, an iron fist in a velvet glove. Soon after coming to power, he turned his eyes onto Sicily and the growing problem of the mafia presence in the island, for the reason that, attempts by the pre-Mussolini Italian government to intervene with the mafia had only served to alienate the populace and make the problem worse. The Mafia in Sicily became increasingly powerful politically, manipulating elections to install their own favoured candidates. Along with the protection business there were murders, robberies, counterfeiting operations, kidnappings for ransom and the intimidation of witnesses. Following his fateful visit and encounter with Cuccia, Mussolini had had enough of the rebellious island. Only the eradication of the Mafia would bring Sicily in line with the rest of Italy. The man he chose to accomplish the task was Cesare Mori.



Il Prefetto di ferro Cesare Mori

Up until that point, Mori had only been successful in capturing the Mafia's low-level bandits. He could never touch the real Mafia dons who were, in some ways, effectively his bosses. There was nothing Mori could do. That was until Mussolini approached him with an opportunity, and the support of the state.

Mori formed a small army of policemen, *carabinieri* and militiamen, which went from town to town, rounding up suspects. To force suspects to surrender, they would take their families hostage, confiscate their property, and publicly slaughter their livestock. Confessions were sometimes extracted through beatings and torture. Some Mafia members who had been on the losing end of Mafia feuds voluntarily cooperate with prosecutors to secure protection and exact revenge. Charges of Mafia associations were typically leveled at poor peasants and farmers, but generally not leveled at wealthy landowners. By 1928, over 11,000 suspects were arrested. More than 1,200 were convicted and imprisoned, and many others were internally exiled without trial.

While Mori arrested numerous mafiosi, many others fled to America, where the local mafia branch was rapidly becoming a new international headquarters. So in suppressing the mafia in Sicily, Mussolini, Mori and the fascists were really just pushing the problem elsewhere. And when the fascist government eventually fell, the reinvigorated internationalized mafia reasserted its control over Sicily, perhaps even more so than before.

In order to destroy the Mafia, Mori felt it necessary to "forge a direct bond between the population and the state," to annul the system of intermediation under which citizens could not approach the authorities except through middlemen. Mori's methods were sometimes similar to those of the Mafia: He did not just arrest the bandits, but sought to humiliate them as well. Mori aimed to convince Sicilians that the Fascist government was powerful enough to rival the Mafia and that the Mafia could no longer protect them. Mori's inquiries brought evidence of collusion between the Mafia and influential members of the Italian government and the Fascist Party. His position became more precarious. Mori's campaign ended in June 1929 when Mussolini recalled him to Rome. Although Mori did not permanently crush the Mafia, his campaign was successful at suppressing it. Sicily's murder rate sharply declined. The Fascist Party propaganda machine proudly announced that the Mafia had been defeated.

With the fall of Mussolini's regime in 1943 and the Allied invasion of Sicily, the surviving mafiosi, many of whom had either been imprisoned, exiled, or had fled abroad, found an opportunity to reclaim their power. The Allies, seeking stability and fearing communist influence, hastily dismantled Fascist institutions and turned to local figures for governance, inadvertently restoring many former mafiosi to positions of authority. Men like Calogero Vizzini,

once suppressed by Mori, were appointed as mayors and administrators, using their influence to protect fellow gangsters and rebuild their networks. As postwar Sicily descended into political chaos, the Mafia embedded itself into the new democratic system, forging alliances with conservative politicians, securing control over land and construction projects, and reestablishing its dominance over protection rackets. Now more than a network of rural bandits, Cosa Nostra adapted to the modern world, positioning itself as the true power behind Sicilian politics and business, stronger and more deeply entrenched than ever before.

5. Law Enforcement and Attempts to Counter-Attack Cartels

Italian authorities played the lead role in combating against the cartels in Italy that time. In order to damage the cartel structure which had a solid basis in Italy supported by the locals, Italian authorities conducted their operations from three main branches, just like a trident. These main branches were “Polizia di Stato” which translated to “State Police”, “Carabinieri” which is basically military police and lastly “Guardia di Finanza” which is translated to “Financial Police”. However, there is also a significant role of the magistrates and judiciary which can't be ignored.

Polizia di Stato was maybe the most influential organisation which counter-attacked the criminal actions of the cartel by making city-wide anti-mafia operations and maintaining the public order. However, not always this influential power was dominant in the Italian field. Many times the power of the cartel outpowered Polizia di Stato which eventually led to a huge underground criminal connection. Therefore, corruption rose rapidly which induced mafia influence on law enforcement and weakened the investigations, counter-attacks and ensured political protection for the mafias. This was because many politicians in south Italy relied on mafia influenced votes which they exchanged for political protection.

Despite these huge obstacles, the Italian police was able to conduct major operations such as anti-drug operations, spy operations, institution operations and many more which linked the both cartels. They made attempts to increase surveillance of mafia-controlled heroin routes, particularly in Sicily and connections to the U.S which was successful. Several heroin shipments destined for the United States got intercepted by Polizia di Stato in Genoa and Naples which led to temporary disruptions in the mafia's narcotics trade. They also made many investigations into the corrupt government facilities and politics which had mafia ties. These investigations led to some small arrests and contributed to the combat slightly. Because nearly every one of these investigations got blocked by higher ranked officials who didn't want the mafia ties revealed.

The Polizia got alarmed by the growing power of the Camorra Cartel led by Raffaele Cutolo. Because Camorra was starting to violently consolidate its power in Naples. Therefore, Polizia attempted to conduct large scale operations to Camorra. Unfortunately, however, these

were mostly sabotaged by the leaked information of the corrupt police officers in Polizia di Stato.

Carabinieri was the military branch of the combat against the cartels. It operated under the Ministry of Defence, they had several missions like gathering intelligence, counter-terrorism, major criminal investigations etc. Since the Carabinieri had a military structure, they were more aggressive than the Polizia. However, just like in Polizia di Stato, corruption altered the consequences of their aggressive attempts.

The Carabinieri began clandestine surveillance of Totò Riina and the Corleonesi, recording their violent rise to power in Cosa Nostra. Despite the intelligence they gathered, no top-level arrests were made due to the mafia's strong political protection. The Carabinieri troops also raided rural mafia strongholds, arresting several low-level members. But top bosses typically avoided arrest as they were warned by reliable informers beforehand which demonstrates how corrupt the governmental organizations were back in that time.

Guardia di Finanza was the financial side of the combat against the cartels. They specialized in countering economic crimes, money laundering, and smuggling. This way, they played a crucial role in tracking mafia finances and intercepting drug shipments.

It was known that the mafias used Swiss and Vatican banks to launder their illegally gained money. Therefore Guardia di Finanza launched investigations into the offshore accounts of the cartels but faced resistance from the banking secrecy laws in Switzerland. This branch also seized many shipments of the cartels, which are significant incomes for the cartels, from other countries such as the U.S, Turkey and Europe itself. For instance, the Camorra cigarette shipments were captured in the port of Naples. However, corruption emerged again and with the corrupt port officials allowing the ships to pass it was deemed that corruption had to be taken care of.

Lastly, Guardia di Finanza launched investigations to cartel linked companies, construction being the first, that were winning government contracts through bribes and intimidation. Yet again, these investigations were undermined and sabotaged because of the interference of political officials.

6. Actions of the Italian Mafia

a. Protection Rackets

i. Protection from Theft

One service the Mafia offers to paying "clients" is protection from theft. Although in reality they are only prohibited from stealing from anyone associated with the Mafia, Mafiosi

themselves are generally prohibited from committing theft. Rather, mafiosi make it their mission to be aware of every fencer and thief that is active in their area. The clan will utilize these relationships to find and return the stolen goods and punish the robbers, generally by beating them up, if a protected business is robbed. Clans sometimes work together on this issue, sharing information and, if possible, preventing the sale of the treasure because the hunt for thieves and their booty frequently crosses into other clans' territory.

ii. Protection from Competition

Businesses are occasionally shielded from rivals by mafiosi who threaten them with violence. The protected can urge their mafioso pals to intimidate their competition out of the bidding process if two businesspeople are vying for a government contract. Another scenario would be a mafioso working for a coffee supplier pressuring neighborhood pubs to serve only their client's coffee.

However, the supervision and execution of collusive agreements among entrepreneurs is the main way the Mafia suppresses competition. In marketplaces where collusion is both desired (inelastic demand, lack of product differentiation, etc.) and challenging to establish (many competitors, low hurdles to entry), mafia-enforced collusion is more likely to occur. Garbage collection is one of the industries that fits this definition.

iii. Client Relations

Mafiosi use a strong yet amiable stance while interacting with prospective customers. They might even entice you with a few complimentary favors. Mafiosi occasionally use harassment, such as damaging their property, to pressure clients who reject their advances. Clients may be killed for breaking contracts or speaking to the police, but not for merely declining protection; physical assault is uncommon.

Mafia bosses frequently favor forming an unbreakable, long-term relationship with a client over making one-time deals. The boss might then formally announce that the client is permanently protected by him. Thieves and other predators will be discouraged from targeting a protected client and prey solely on the unprotected because there is minimal public uncertainty regarding who is and is not protected.

iv. Protection Territories

Competition from other racketeers inside their zone of influence is unacceptable to a Mafia clan. The two racketeers would have to battle it out for their respective customers if a disagreement arose between two clients who were both protected by competing racketeers. Such

conflicts often have unpredictable, if not bloody, results, and neither racketeer could promise their client a win. Their protection would become worthless and unreliable as a result. Their reputations would suffer if their clients rejected them and used other methods to resolve the conflict. Mafia clans negotiate areas where they can exclusively employ violence to settle conflicts in order to avoid this. This is not always accomplished amicably, as territorial disputes are the source of most Mafia wars.

b. Other Activities

i. Vote Buying

During elections, politicians court mafiosi to win votes. Clients, family members, and acquaintances of a mafioso may vote for a particular politician just because the mafioso supports that candidate. The respect a mafioso may command is so great that a particularly powerful mafioso can garner thousands of votes for a candidate. A candidate can win with just a few thousand votes in the Italian Parliament because there are many seats (around one per 64,000 residents) and several political parties vying for them in its 630-member Chamber of Deputies and 315+ member Senate. Thus, a mafia clan's success may depend on their backing. Politicians typically return the favor by undermining police investigations, awarding contracts, and permits.

ii. Smuggling

Mafiosi give smuggling gangs safety and financial support. Few people would entrust their money to criminal groups, despite the fact that smuggling operations involve significant investments (goods, vessels, staff, etc.). Mafiosi raise the required funds from investors and make sure that everyone acts honestly. Additionally, they guarantee the safety of the smugglers' operations.

Mafiosi hardly ever participate directly in smuggling activities. They typically do so when the operations are particularly dangerous. To strengthen their bonds, they might induct smugglers into their clans in this situation. In the case of heroin smuggling, the revenues and volume involved were too high to maintain the activities at a distance.

7. Common Questions About the Italian Mafia

a. How Does the Mafia Maintain Order?

The mafia primarily establishes control by providing protection. They provide a promise of security, a place in the social life in exchange of money, a proportion of your harvest and your respect to their station in the society. This is how the mafia presents itself—polite, well-dressed, and well-mannered. Unlike common criminal gangs that use brute force, the mafia prefers

cooperation. By working with the mafia, you secure protection, provide employment for local youths, integrate into the community, and create new business opportunities. You also gain a political connection, making it easier to bribe local officials. However, if you refuse to cooperate with the mafia, you may wake up to find your vineyard burned and your goods stolen.

The mafia also serves as an unofficial judicial system. If you make a business deal but get scammed, going through the courts could take years. Instead, you turn to the mafia boss, who acts as a "notary." In exchange for a commission, he ensures the transaction runs smoothly. If he fails, he loses his reputation, which is crucial in the mafia world.

The concept of "Omertà," or the code of silence, is deeply ingrained in mafia culture. If they are arrested, or taken by the enemies they are expected to stay silent no matter the cost or otherwise their respect and name crumbles in other mafioso's eyes. Betrayal is considered disgraceful. Even in police interrogations, mafia members remain silent or deliberately provide misleading information.

b. The Mafia's Role in Politics

The mafia weakens state authority, facilitates corruption, and influences politics. In Italy, politicians rely on mafia support to secure votes, as mafia bosses control local communities. Even NATO has reportedly used the Italian mafia as a front in covert operations. The only leader who successfully curtailed the mafia was Mussolini. His fascist regime left no political gaps for the mafia to infiltrate. In contrast, the U.S. mafia thrived under a more liberal and flexible system. In conclusion, the mafia is not just a crime syndicate but a deeply rooted socio-economic system. Its ability to adapt and operate within legal grey areas has allowed it to persist in both Italy and the U.S. for over a century. If crime is inevitable, the Italian mafia ensures that it causes minimal harm to the general population. Unlike other criminal organizations, they avoid large-scale violence. Aside from a few exceptions, the mafia generally avoids drawing too much attention.

