

Organized Crime — Nonfiction

DB40115

Title: Capone: The Man and the Era

Author: Bergreen, Laurence

The subject of this biography won a warm spot in the hearts of some who objected to Prohibition even as he developed a reputation that makes his name all but synonymous with gangster. The author traces Capone's relatively short life from the Brooklyn home of his immigrant parents to Chicago, where several family members joined the mob. Capone was tough to nail, in spite of events such as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Some strong language.

DB38740

Title: Gangland: How the FBI Broke the Mob

Author: Blum, Howard

New York Times investigative reporter Blum tells the FBI's side of the downfall of Mafia don John Gotti, head of the Gambino crime family. In 1980 agent Bruce Mouw was chosen to spearhead a mission to destroy the underworld organization. Six frustrating years of surveillance followed, including an ironic incident in which the FBI felt obligated to warn Gotti it had overheard a threat on his life. Strong language.

DB73179

Title: Operation Family Secrets: How a Mobster's Son and the FBI Brought Down Chicago's Murderous Crime Family

Author: Calabrese, Frank.; Pompian, Paul.; Zimmerman, Keith.; Zimmerman, Kent.

Imprisoned for racketeering, the author approached the FBI in 1998 and offered to tape incriminating conversations with his father Frank Calabrese Sr., a crew chief in the Chicago mob who was responsible for multiple murders. Violence and strong language. 2011.

DB55068

Title: Black mass the Irish mob, the FBI, and a devil's deal

Author: Lehr, Dick.; O'Neill, Gerard K

Investigative journalists expose FBI corruption. In 1975 Boston FBI agent John Connolly began using Irish mobster Jim "Whitey" Bulger as an informant. Though Bulger committed outrageous crimes, the state police and federal drug agents were never able to get a conviction, and authorities became suspicious of a fix. Violence and strong language. 2000.

DB69647

Title: L.A.Noir: The Struggle for the Soul of America's Most Seductive City

Author: Buntin, John

True Los Angeles crime legends from the 1930s to the 1960s. Features accounts of gangster Mickey Cohen and LA police chief Bill Parker amid the glitter of Hollywood and organized crime operations that included brothels, gambling circuits, drug dens, and bribery rings. Violence and some strong language. Bestseller. 2009.

DB67165

Title: McMafia: A Journey through the Global Underworld

Author: Glenny, Misha

Former BBC world correspondent examines the globalization of organized crime. Asserts that the Russian mafia, Colombian drug cartels, Chinese labor smugglers, and other sources of illegal trade fueled by Western demand exploit new technology and the poverty of developing nations. Discusses links between global crime and terrorism. Some strong language. 2008.

DB67536

Title: Havana Nocturne: How the Mob Owned Cuba--and Then Lost It to the Revolution

Author: English, T. J.

Author documents from primary sources the late-1940s and early-1950s dominance of American organized crime in Havana's entertainment industries--beyond the U.S. government's reach. Describes Meyer Lansky's

and Lucky Luciano's ties to Cuban dictator Batista's regime until Castro's 1956 takeover. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2008.

DB80745

Title: Whitey: The Life of America's Most Notorious Mob Boss

Author: Lehr, Dick.

An account of the life of Boston mob boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger, which draws on a great deal of previously classified material. Included are the events of his childhood in 1940s Southie, his imprisonment in Alcatraz, his pact with the FBI in the 1970s, and his years of hiding in California. Some violence. 2013.

DB76630

Title: Whitey Bulger: America's Most Wanted Gangster and the Manhunt That Brought Him to Justice

Author: Cullen, Kevin.

Award-winning reporters chronicle the South Boston crime boss's life, including his involvement in gang wars, bank robberies, and murders from the 1950s into the 1990s; secret work as an FBI informant; and sixteen-year flight from authorities. Details the investigation that led to Bulger's 2011 capture in California. Strong language. 2013.

DB54760

Title: Mafia Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the Gambino Crime Family

Author: Davis, John H.

An account of fifty years of one of New York's five Cosa Nostra families. Uses anecdotes and trial transcripts to trace the Gambino clan's establishment of their crime syndicate. Concludes with the successful prosecution of top boss John Gotti by Rudolph Giuliani in 1992. Violence and strong language. 1993.

DB69501

Title: A Bright and Guilty Place: Murder, Corruption, and L.A.'s Scandalous Coming of Age

Author: Rayner, Richard.

Rayner portrays forensic investigator Leslie White and prosecutor Dave Clark, who worked together in Los Angeles during the 1920s and Great Depression when the city was wealthy from its movie and oil industries. Details crime boss Charlie Crawford's 1931 murder and Clark's becoming the prime suspect. Bestseller. 2009.

DB68713

Title: The Black Hand: The Bloody Rise and Redemption of "Boxer" Enriquez, a Mexican Mob Killer

Author: Blatchford, Chris.

A Los Angeles Times reporter pens this authorized biography of a former member of the Mexican Mafia. Describes Rene "Boxer" Enriquez's gang lifestyle, including crime, drug addiction, and imprisonment. Highlights Enriquez's decision to denounce his past and help educate law enforcement about America's criminal subculture. Violence and strong language. 2008.

DB58884

Title: American Mafia: A History of Its Rise to Power

Author: Reppetto, Thomas A.

Former Chicago detective and coauthor of NYPD (RC 52137) surveys organized crime in the United States, 1880s to 1950s. Contends that social forces empowering Torrio, Capone, Luciano, and many other mobsters included widespread anti-immigrant bias, Prohibition, and corrupt alliances between politicians and law "enforcers" flagrantly on the take. 2004.

DB71465

Title: Dillinger's Wild Ride: The Year That Made America's Public Enemy Number One

Author: Gorn, Elliott J.

Chronicles the final year in the life of John Dillinger (1903-1934). Details the crime spree that began a month after his release from nine years in prison and ended with his death at the hands of federal agents. Describes bank robberies and shoot-outs and discusses Dillinger's lingering pop-culture presence. 2009.

DB79937

Title: Eliot Ness: The Rise and Fall of an American Hero

Author: Perry, Douglas

Comprehensive portrait of Bureau of Investigation agent Eliot Ness (1903-1957), the legendary leader of the Untouchables. Documents the years after his famous confrontation with Al Capone in Chicago, his attempts to end corruption in Cleveland, and his efforts to track the serial murderer called the Cleveland Torso Killer. 2014