

The Rise Of The Mob In New Jersey: A Comprehensive Look Into The State's Notorious Criminal Underworld

New Jersey, a state often associated with prosperity and progress, has a darker side that has been plagued by organized crime for decades. The rise of the mob in New Jersey has left an enduring mark on the state's history, shaping its political landscape and influencing its economy and culture.

The Early Years: The Birth Of La Cosa Nostra

The roots of the New Jersey mob can be traced back to the early 20th century, when Italian immigrants arrived in droves seeking a better life. Amidst poverty and discrimination, some turned to crime as a means of survival.



Garden State Gangland: The Rise of the Mob in New Jersey by Scott M. Deitche

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In 1931, Charles "Lucky" Luciano, a notorious New York mobster, orchestrated a meeting of crime bosses in New York City that established the Commission, a governing body that would oversee organized crime activities nationwide. Under the Commission's umbrella, the New Jersey crime family emerged, led by powerful figures like Abner "Longie" Zwillman and Philip "Phil" Testa.

The Golden Years: Dominance And Expansion

The 1950s and 1960s marked the golden years of the New Jersey mob. Under the leadership of powerful bosses like Angelo "Gyp" DeCarlo and Sam "The Plumber" DeCavalcante, the family expanded its operations into various lucrative rackets, including gambling, extortion, and labor union infiltration.

The mob also established a strong foothold in the state's political arena, corrupting officials and influencing elections to protect its interests. This era saw the rise of infamous figures like Anthony "Tony Pro" Provenzano, a powerful labor union boss with close ties to the mob.

The Violent Wars: Turf Battles And Retribution

The golden years were not without their violent struggles. The New Jersey mob engaged in bloody turf wars with rival gangs, including the Lucchese and Gambino crime families from New York. These wars resulted in numerous murders and kidnappings, leaving a trail of fear and violence across the state.

In the 1980s, the DeCavalcante family was torn apart by a bitter internal war that led to the assassination of several high-ranking members, including boss John "Johnny Dee" Riggi.

The RICO Era: Government Crackdown And Decline

The 1980s also saw the federal government launch a major crackdown on organized crime through the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. RICO gave prosecutors powerful tools to dismantle crime families by targeting their financial operations and business activities.

The New Jersey mob was one of the hardest hit by the RICO prosecutions. In 1986, DeCavalcante boss Sammy "The Bull" Gravano became a government informant, providing crucial testimony against his former associates. The subsequent trials and convictions led to the downfall of many top mobsters and the weakening of the family's power.

The Modern Era: A Shadow Of The Past

Today, the New Jersey mob is a shadow of its former self. RICO prosecutions, law enforcement efforts, and internal conflicts have significantly diminished its strength and influence.

However, remnants of the mob continue to operate in the state, engaging in various criminal activities, including drug trafficking, loansharking, and illegal gambling. They remain a reminder of the state's checkered past and the enduring legacy of organized crime.

The rise of the mob in New Jersey is a complex and fascinating chapter in the state's history. From its humble beginnings to its violent heyday and eventual decline, organized crime has left an indelible mark on New Jersey's political, economic, and cultural landscape.

The story of the New Jersey mob is a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked power, corruption, and violence. It is a reminder that even in the most prosperous and advanced societies, the allure of illicit gains and the thirst for control can lead to a dark and destructive path.

Key Figures Of The New Jersey Mob

- Abner "Longie" Zwillman
- Philip "Phil" Testa
- Angelo "Gyp" DeCarlo
- Sam "The Plumber" DeCavalcante
- Anthony "Tony Pro" Provenzano
- John "Johnny Dee" Riggi
- Sammy "The Bull" Gravano

Recommended Reading

- The Valachi Papers by Peter Maas
- Five Families by Selwyn Raab
- Underboss by Peter Maas
- The Outfit: The Role of Chicago's Underworld in the Shaping of Modern America by Gus Russo
- Wiseguy by Nicholas Pileggi

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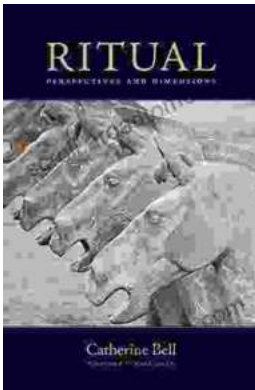
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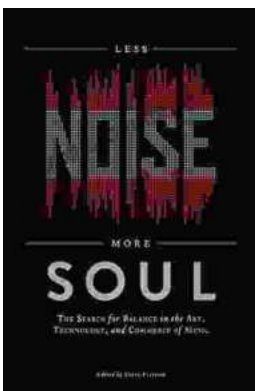


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