

Case Against Lucky Luciano: New York's Most Sensational Vice Trial

ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROHIBITION, LEARN WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. In 1919, the National Prohibition Act was passed, making it illegal across America to produce, distribute, or sell liquor. With this act, the U.S. Congress also created organized crime as we know it. Italian, Jewish, and Irish mobs sprang up to supply the suddenly illegal commodity to the millions of people still eager to drink it. Men like Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky, Dutch Schultz and Bugsy Siegel, Al Capone in Chicago and Nucky Johnson in Atlantic City, waged a brutal war for power in the streets and on the waterfronts. But if you think you already know this story...think again, since you've never seen it through the eyes of one of the mobsters who lived it. Called "one of the most significant organized crime figures in the United States" by the U.S. District Attorney, Vincent "Jimmy Blue Eyes" Alo was just 15 years old when Prohibition became law. Over the next decade, Alo worked side by side with Lansky and Luciano as they navigated the brutal underworld of bootlegging, thievery and murder. Alo's later career included prison time and the ultimate Mob tribute: being immortalized as "Johnny Ola" in The Godfather, Part II. Introduced to the 91-year-old Alo living in retirement in Florida, Dylan Struzan based this book on more than 50 hours of recorded testimony--stories Alo had never shared, and that he forbid her to publish until "after I'm gone." Alo died peacefully, two months short of his 97th birthday. And now his stories--bracing and violent, full of intrigue and betrayal, hunger and hubris--can finally be told.

"I'll talk to anybody, a priest, a bank manager, a gangster, the devil himself, if I can get the information I need. This is a war." -- Lt. Commander Charles Radcliffe Haffenden, Naval Intelligence Unit, B-3 in late 1982, a spike in terrorism has the Reagan Administration considering covert action to neutralize the menace before it reaches the United States. There are big risks to waging a secret war against America's enemies--but there is one little-known precedent. Forty years earlier, boats had been prowling the Atlantic, sinking hundreds of U.S. ships along the east coast, including the largest cruise ship in the world, Normandie, destroyed at a Manhattan pier after Pearl Harbor. Nazi agents even landed on Long Island with explosives and maps of railways, bridges, and defense plans. Desperate to secure the coast, the Navy turned to Meyer Lansky, the Jewish Mob boss. A newly naturalized American whose fellow Eastern European Jews were being annihilated by Hitler, Lansky headed an unlikely fellowship of mobsters Lucky Luciano, Bugsy Siegel, Frank Costello, and naval intelligence officers. Young Reagan White House aide Jonah Eastman, grandson of Atlantic City gangster Mickey Price, is approached by the president's top advisor with an assignment: Discreetly interview his grandfather's old friend Lansky about his wartime activities. There just might be something to learn from that secret operation. The notoriously tight-lipped gangster, dying of cancer, is finally ready to talk. Jonah gets a riveting--and darkly comic--history lesson. The Mob caught Nazi agents, planted propaganda with the help of columnist Walter Winchell, and found Mafia spies to plot the invasion of Sicily, where General Patton was poised to strike at the soft underbelly of the Axis. Lansky's men stopped at nothing to sabotage Hitler's push toward American shores. Based on real events, The Devil Himself is a high-energy novel of military espionage and Mafia justice.

Mary M. Stolberg brings to life the dramatic interplay between crime and politics in New York City during the 1930s, from the emergence of organized crime as a political issue in Fiorella La Guardia's 1929 mayoral campaign to the appointment of Thomas E. Dewey as special prosecutor and his use of that position to further his presidential ambitions.

CHARLES "LUCKY" LUCIANO was an Organization Man with a difference. The organization he belonged to was The Mafia—a natural setup for a vicious tug war with unlimited ambition and a heart of ice. Murder by murder, rape by rape, he established the biggest chair of brothels ever seen in New York. Everything—everyone—he touched turned rotten. He knew he had it made when he had more cops on his payroll prostitutes. Pal of Al Capone, Frank Costello Bugsy Siegel, Albert Anastasia, Lucky became the absolute ruler of a private empire built on vice, corruption and murder. This is the Lucky Luciano story—brutal, shocking, with nothing left out.

The Real Lucky Luciano
Mafia Murderer and Secret Agent
Fighting Organized Crime
A Brotherhood Betrayed
Eunice Hunton Carter
The Whirlwind Life and Mysterious Death of Screwball Comedienne Thelma Todd
Ice Cream Blonde

Young Sal navigates the streets of Harlem, defying the ways of people in power—including the bullies in his neighborhood and his own mafia family culture. He experiences the inherent corruption of the US justice system, and discovers the truth about the secret world of outlaw figures like his cousin and namesake, Charles "Lucky" Luciano.

Genovese, Gambino, Bonnano, Colombo and Luchese. For decades these Five Families ruled New York and built the American Mafia (or Cosa Nostra) into an underworld empire. Today, the Mafia is an endangered species, battered and beleaguered by aggressive investigators, incompetent leadership, betrayals and generational changes that produced violent and unreliable leaders and recruits. A twenty year assault against the five families in particular blossomed into the most successful law enforcement campaign of the last century. Selwyn Raab's Five Families is the vivid story of the rise and fall of New York's premier dons from Lucky Luciano to John Gotti and more. The book also brings the reader right up to the possible resurgence of the Mafia as the FBI and local law enforcement agencies turn their attention to homeland security and away from organized crime.

In this true crime classic, out of print since 1981, Lucky Luciano remains a mythical underworld figure.

The year is 1936. Charles "Lucky" Luciano is the most powerful gangster in America. Thomas E. Dewey is an ambitious young prosecutor hired to bring him down, and Cokey Flo Brown--grifter, heroin addict, and sometimes prostitute--is the witness who claims she can do it. Only a wily defense attorney named George Morton Levy stands between Lucky and a life behind bars, between Dewey and the New York governor's mansion. As the Roaring Twenties give way to the austere thirties of the Depression, four lives, each on its own incandescent trajectory, intersect in a New York courtroom, introducing America to the violent and darkly glamorous world of organized crime and leaving our culture, laws, and politics forever changed. Based on a trove of newly discovered documents, Tom & Lucky (and George & Cokey Flo) tells the true story of a singular trial in American history: an epic clash between a crime-busting district attorney and an all-powerful mob boss who, in the crucible of a Manhattan courtroom, battle for the heart and soul of a dispirited nation. Blending elements of political thriller, courtroom drama, and hard-boiled pulp, author C. Joseph Greaves introduces readers to the likes of Al Capone, Dutch Schultz, Meyer Lansky, and Bugsy Siegel while taking readers behind the scenes of a corrupt criminal justice system in which sinners may be saints and heroes may prove to be the biggest villains of all.

Wrongly Executed? - The Long-Forgotten Context of Charles Sberna's 1939 Electrocution

The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires

Invisible

The Last Words of Dutch Schultz

The Man Who Organized Crime in America

The Rise and Fall of a Bad Generation

The Last Pirate of New York

From the New York Times–bestselling author of The Eagle Has Landed and Dark Justice comes the World War II legend of American gangster Charles “Lucky” Luciano. It’s 1943 and war is raging. The key to America and the Allies’ first assault on Nazi-occupied Europe is the island of Sicily. But it is unknown whether the Sicilian people are willing to rise up and fight alongside the Allies. To secure their help, the US military turns to imprisoned mobster Lucky Luciano—the one man with the connections to the all-powerful Sicilian mafia that could change the course of the war in Italy. The price for his help? Nothing short of a full pardon. Sent in secret to Sicily, Luciano must use every bit of guile and ruthlessness he has to convince his underworld brethren to make a stand against the fascists who have overrun their land. If successful, his mission will pave the way for a full-scale invasion of Italy and aid the Allies in breaking Hitler’s grip on Italy. But if he fails, the price in blood will be higher than anyone can imagine—and Luciano’s will be the first spilled. For decades, author Jack Higgins has kept millions of readers around the world glued to the page with his breakneck pacing and shocking plot twists. Here, he takes the true story of the near-alliance between the US government and the mob during World War II to an explosive climax.

Charles "Lucky" Luciano is one of the most researched, discussed and dissected American mobsters of all time. His name has become synonymous with NY City's high drama gangland days of prohibition bootlegging, the information of the infamous five families, and controversy over his alleged Last Testament. However, there exists many fascinating and lurid tales and theories regarding Lucky's rise and fall from the mobs to top cop.

A comprehensive history of crime and corruption in Cuba. The Cuban Connection challenges the common view that widespread poverty and geographic proximity to the United States were the prime reasons for soaring rates of drug trafficking, smuggling, gambling, and prostitution in the tumultuous decades preceding the Cuban revolution. Eduardo Saenz Rovner argues that Cuba's historically well-established integration into international migration, commerce, and transportation networks combined with political instability and rampant official corruption to help lay the foundation for the development of organized crime structures powerful enough to affect Cuba's domestic and foreign politics and its very identity as a nation. Saenz traces the routes taken around the world by traffickers and smugglers. After Cuba, the most important player in this story is the United States. The involvement of gangsters and corrupt U.S. officials and businessmen enabled prohibited substances to reach a strong market in the United States, from rum running during Prohibition to increased demand for narcotics during the Cold War. Originally published in Colombia in 2005, this first English-language edition has been revised and updated by the author.

A fantastical film script of the notorious gangster's final twenty-four hours of hallucinations presents Schultz's two thousand last words spoken-acted against a background of the Palace Chop House, the hospital, and period stills

The Last Testament Of Lucky Luciano The Mafia Story In His Own Words

Big Apple Gangsters

The Rise and Fall of a Mob Boss

The Lucky Luciano Story

Lucky Luciano - The Father of Modern Organized Crime (Biography)

Big Tom Brown and the Barker Gang

The Gangster's Cousin

The riveting true story of the rise and fall of Murder, Inc. and the executioner-turned-informant whose mysterious death became a turning point in Mob history. In the fall of 1941, a momentous trial was underway that threatened to end the careers and lives of New York's most brutal mob kingpins. The lead witness, Abe Reles, had been a trusted executioner for Murder, Inc., the enforcement arm of a coast-to-coast mob network known as the Commission. But the man responsible for coolly silencing hundreds of informants was about to become the most talkative snitch of all. In exchange for police protection, Reles was prepared to rat out his murderous friends, from Albert Anastasia to Bugsy Siegel—but before he could testify, his shattered body was discovered on a rooftop outside his heavily-guarded hotel room. Was it a botched escape, or punishment for betraying the loyalty of the country's most powerful mobsters? Michael Cannell's A Brotherhood Betrayed traces the history of Murder, Inc. through Reles' rise from street punk to murder chieftain to stool pigeon, ending with his fatal death on a Coney Island rooftop. It resurrects a time when crime became organized crime: a world of money and power, depravity and corruption, street corner ambushes and elaborately choreographed hits by wise-cracking foot soldiers with names like Bugsy Goldstein and Tick Tock Tannenbaum. For a brief moment before World War II erupted, America fixated on the delicate balance of trust and betrayal on the Brooklyn streets. This is the story of the one man who tipped the balance.

Collins set down the newspaper and scowled at his servant. "You're not helping my paranoia, Rigby." Then the detective fished from his jacket pocket a silver cigarette case, opened it, grabbed one of its contents and stuffed the cigarette into his mouth. A moment later a teasing grin spread his handsome face. "If this country goes to war Parasha and I will be in real a pickle." "I fail to see why," Rigby snorted, as he signed a check. "You'd coddle your disreputable cat to the enth degree, war or not." "Actually, I was thinking about you." "Me?" "Someone has to represent the Collins household in the front-lines," returned the detective, with mock insistence. "We don't want to be considered shirkers. Why, I'd be banned from the Stuyvesant Club." Rigby jerked upright, suddenly alarmed. "I should think it would be far more appropriate for you to volunteer if the worst happened!" "I can't do that," Collins protested, one amused eye on his agitated servant. "Why not?" "I'm much too rich to die in some sordid gun-battle with a Schnitzel chewing machine. It's far more appropriate for a man like me to pass-in on one of those bordellos you've been complaining about." The detective took out a small gold lighter, flicked it to life and put flame to the cigarette; his eyes twinkling. "I'm afraid you'll have to fight the Bosch, Rigby." "Your concern for my future is touching, Sir," the butler returned, dryly. Then with a flurry of mutterings he resumed his work. "Which brings me back to my original concern: with you wielding a bayonet in Europe, gattico the Hun, who's going to steam Parasha's oysters, and prepare my Manhattans?" "I'm sure I don't know, Sir," the butler grinned. The detective picked up the newspaper and flipped a page, laughing softly at Rigby's irritation. Then his eyes narrowed. "Guess who's looking down the barrel of an indictment, if John Theobald has his way?" The butler leaned back in his chair, his dark eyes focusing upon his master. "How many times have I warned you against gambling with Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky?" "Not me." Collins wrinkled his nose as if a foul odor had suddenly filled the room. "Luciano. According to this article a new racketeering law is up for a vote. It'll give the State of New York extensive and very liberal powers to control organized crime." "How often have we heard that before?" mocked the servant, tilting forward to fill-out another check. "Now, now give Theobald his due. Our District Attorney for New York County is an honest public servant." "I'm not faulting Mr. Theobald's intentions, Sir. But you must admit there is a lot to be desired when it comes to the success of his actions. He's arrested Luciano a dozen times or more - with nothing coming of it." Harper Collins blew a smoke ring, watched it float above his servant's head and uncork into frail wisps. "Luciano is a slick operator, Rigby." "If you want my opinion, a bounty should be put on that gangster's head." "And let just anyone take potshots at a poor, Sicilian immigrant? Nonsense!" The detective forced a stoic expression as he turned his head to meet his servant's shocked stare. "The city would become a blood-bath. There'd be dead Luciano look-alikes everywhere. Lasagna could become a thing of the past." "Well, something has to be done! Luciano's even suspected of killing Thelma Beale." "If there were any proof in that, I'm sure Lucky would've been arrested." "As you said, Sir, he's a slick operator." "Not in a poker game. I've fleeced him and Lansky numerous times." "That's because you cheat."

Was Charles Sberna wrongly convicted of the murder of Police Officer John H.A. Wilson? Was an innocent man sent to the electric chair in 1939? What reasons could authorities have had for rushing Sberna into Sing Sing Prison's death device? Prison Warden Lewis Wallis wrote, "If I had commanded the power to stay an execution, [he] would be alive today. No one of us ever doubted his words..." Columist Walter Winchell commented, "For the first time in New York history, there is practically a certainty that an innocent man was executed in the electric chair." "Wrongly Executed?" provides the details and historical background of the Sberna case. The story is a complex and controversial one, involving celebrity attorneys, Mafia bosses, violent political radicals, media giants and ruthless establishment figures, all set in a period in which Americans sought stability and government-imposed order after years of political upheaval, economic depression and Prohibition Era lawlessness.

American film favorite Thelma Todd was much more than the beautiful blonde of the 1930s who played opposite Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy and the Marx Brothers. Todd's tragic death transformed her into an icon of Hollywood mystery: The photograph of the 29-year-old actress slumped in her luxurious Lincoln Phaeton shocked fans in 1935. How did she die? Was it murder, suicide, or an accident? This definitive biography covers a fascinating era in Hollywood history. In the course of his exhaustive research, the author interviewed Todd's cousins Bill and Edna Todd, as well as such friends and coworkers as Ida Lupino, Lina Basquette, Anita Garvin, Dorothy Granger, William Bakewell and Greg Blackton. Also examined is Hollywood's first major sex scandal of 1913, involving Jewel Carmen, the future spouse of director Roland West—the man Thelma Todd loved.

Dagos, Palookas, Romeos, Wise Guys, and Sopranos

Prohibition Gangsters

Tom & Lucky (and George & Cokey Flo)

A Novel

A Ghost Ship, a Killer, and the Birth of a Gangster Nation

The Man Behind the Rise and Fall of Murder, Inc.

Twenty Against the Underworld

Looks at Thomas E. Dewey's case against "Charlie Lucky" Luciano and his Depression era prostitution ring, including coverage and rare photographs of the prostitutes who appeared as material witnesses.

Examines how and why the US government went from regulating illicit drug traffic and consumption to declaring war on both.

Not gangster history but the most powerful man in America (1897-1962). By the mid-1920s, he had taken over the New York bordellos and was making more than a million dollars a year. In 1931 he engineered the murders of the two reigning New York crime bosses, Joe Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano, and quickly took over the entire New York crime racket. The Luciano Story is the definitive biography of this legendary gangster, based on years of research and dozens of interviews with Luciano himself and among other first-hand accounts. First published in 1954, this book authenticated, for the first time, the far-reaching and sinister operations of the international crime syndicate and its direction by the keenest criminal mastermind in American history.

The fascinating biography of Eunice Hunton Carter, a social justice and civil rights trailblazer and the only woman prosecutor on the Luciano trial Eunice Hunton Carter rose to public prominence in 1936 as both the only woman and the only person of color on Thomas Dewey's famous gangbuster team that prosecuted mobster Lucky Luciano. But her life before and after the trial remains relatively unknown. In this definitive biography on this trailblazing social justice activist, authors Marilyn S. Greenwald and Yun Li tell the story of this unknown but critical pioneer in the struggle for racial and gender equality in the twentieth century. Carter worked harder than most men because of her race and gender, and Greenwald and Li reflect on her lifelong commitment to her adopted home of Harlem, where she was viewed as a role model, arts patron, community organizer, and, later, as a legal advisor to the United Nations, the National Council of Negro Women, and several other national and global organizations. Carter was both a witness to and a participant in many pivotal events of the early and mid- twentieth century, including the Harlem riot of 1935 and the social scene during the Harlem Renaissance. Using transcripts, letters, and other primary and secondary sources from several archives in the United States and Canada, the authors paint a colorful portrait of how Eunice continued the legacy of the Carter family, which valued education, perseverance, and hard work: a grandfather who was a slave who bought his freedom and became a successful businessman in a small colony of former slaves in Ontario, Canada; a father who nearly single-handedly integrated the nation's YMCAs in the Jim Crow South; and a mother who provided aid to Black soldiers in France during World War I and who became a leader in several global and domestic racial equality causes. Carter's inspirational multi-decade career working in an environment of bias, segregation, and patriarchy in Depression-era America helped pave the way for those who came after her.

The Last Testament of Lucky Luciano

The Mafia Story in His Own Words

Frank Costello, Prime Minister of the Mafia

The Rise and Decline of the Mob in New York

A Bloody Business

The Case of the Ice Cream Blonde

Among the most dangerous criminals of the public enemies era was a man who has long hidden in history's shadows: Tom Brown. In the early 1930s, while he was police chief of St. Paul, Minnesota, Brown became a secret partner of the infamous Barker gang. He profited from their violent crimes, he protected the gang from raids by the nascent FBI—and while he did all this, the gangsters gunned down cops and citizens in his hometown. Big Tom Brown, 6'5" and 275 pounds, continued to enforce St. Paul's corrupt O'Connor system, allowing criminals to stay in the city as long as they paid off the cops and committed no crimes within fifty miles. But in the early 1930s, the system broke down: no longer supported by cash skimmed from illegal booze, gangsters turned to robbing banks, and the Barker gang kidnapped two of the prominent citizens who had been complicit in the liquor trade. Brown was the insider who kept the criminals safe—but for highly political reasons, he was never convicted of his crimes. Timothy Mahoney tells this fascinating story, details how the fraud was uncovered, and at last exposes the corruption of a secret partnership.

The Case Against Lucky LucianoNew York's Most Sensational Vice Trial(Clinton Cook Publishing Corporation US)

The bestselling author delves into his past and discovers the inspiring story of his grandmother's extraordinary life She was black and a woman and a prosecutor, a graduate of Smith College and the granddaughter of slaves, as dazzlingly unlikely a combination as one could imagine in New York of the 1930s—and without the strategy she devised, Lucky Luciano, the most powerful Mafia boss in history, would never have been convicted. When special prosecutor Thomas E. Dewey selected twenty lawyers to help him clean up the city's underworld, she was the only woman of her race who was not a white male. Eunice Hunton Carter, Stephen Carter's grandmother, was raised in a world of stultifying expectations about race and gender, yet by the 1940s, her professional and political successes had made her one of the most famous black women in America. But her triumphs were shadowed by prejudice and tragedy. Greatly complicating her rise was her difficult relationship with her younger brother, Alphaeus, an avowed Communist who—together with his friend Dashiell Hammett—would go to prison during the McCarthy era. Yet she remained unbowed. Moving, haunting, and as fast-paced as a novel, Invisible tells the true story of a woman who often found her path blocked by the social and political expectations of her time. But Eunice Carter never accepted defeat, and thanks to her grandson's remarkable book, her long forgotten story is once again visible.

Charles "Lucky" Luciano was a vicious mobster who rose to become the king of the New York underworld. He was a legend - but also a lake master criminal manipulated by the federal agents who had put him behind bars. This myth-busting biography tells Luciano's real story, from his early days as a top hit man to his exploits running sex and narcotics empires and revelations about his trip to Nazi Germany to set up a drugs racket. Through painstaking research, Newark exposes the truth about what Luciano really did during the war and reveals the gangster's role as a Cold War agent, helping the US government fight Communism in Sicily. Lucky Luciano: Mafia Murderer and Secret Agenturns accepted Mafia history on its head with an extraordinary story that has never been told before.

Don't Call Us Molls

Women of the John Dillinger Gang

Boardwalk Gangster

Drug Trafficking, Smuggling, and Gambling in Cuba from the 1920s to the Revolution

Supreme Court of the State of New York

Mysterious Tales of a Gangster Legend

Secret Partners

For the first twenty-five years of his criminal career, Charles "Lucky" Luciano was a vicious mobster who rose to become the multimillionaire king of the New York underworld. For the next twenty-five years of his life, Luciano was a legend—but a fake master criminal without real power. His evil reputation manipulated and maintained by the government agents who had put him behind bars. Drawing on secret government documents from archives in the United States and Europe, this myth-busting biography tells the real story from Luciano's early days as a top hit man for the Mob to his exploits running sex and narcotics empires. His criminal career abruptly ended with conviction and imprisonment, but his reputation was only enhanced by rumors that he was winning World War II for the Allies in Sicily and the Mediterranean. Now, for the first time, author Tim Newark exposes the truth about what Luciano really did do to help the Allies in the war. With his expulsion from the United States after the war ended, Luciano returned to Italy. He was reputed to have overseen a massive transatlantic narcotics network and became a villain for international law enforcement agencies. But Newark reveals how Luciano really spent his twilight years. Lucky Luciano: The Real and the Fake Gangster turns accepted Mafia history on its head with an extraordinary story that has never been told before.

Few New Yorkers are aware that the tenements and storefronts of the East Village, famous for Beat poetry, avant-garde art, and alternative rock music, were a stronghold of mafia racketeering, treasury, and intrigue for most seventy years. From the 1920s to 1990, mob icons lived in or frequented the East Village, known as part of the Lower East Side until the mid-1960s. In the East Village Mafia, author Thomas F. Comiskey shares the history of this little-known Manhattan mafia enclave that wielded influence on the direction and destiny of organized crime in New Jersey, New York, and A federal agent from Avenue A and Fifteenth Street became the nemesis of mafia narcotics dealers. Uses eyewitness accounts and courtroom and prison records to explore the history of the female companions of the Depression-era bank-robbing gang.

The definitive book on the ultimate mob boss—featuring new FBI revelations, rare family photos, and never-before-published material. To authorities, Frank Costello was “The Prime Minister of the Underworld” and “one of the most powerful and influential Mafia leaders in the U.S.” To friends and associates, he was simply “Uncle Frank.” Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Anthony M. DeStefano sets out to answer who Frank Costello really was in this definitive portrait of one of the most fascinating figures in the annals of American crime. . . . Using newly released FBI eyewitness accounts, and family mementos, Top Hoodlum takes you inside the Mafia that Frank Costello helped build from the ground up. These are the riveting stories and stunning revelations that have inspired American crime classics like The Godfather, Casino, Goodfellas, and The Sopranos. This is the man who made the Mafia such a powerful force in our nation's history. The man who refused to admit his crimes long after he retired. This is Top Hoodlum. Praise for Anthony M. DeStefano and his books on the Mafia “Thrilling American crime writing.” —Jiminy Breslin on King of the Godfathers “Terrific. . . . A fitting end to the murderous story of the 1978 Luthansa heist.” —Nicholas Pileggi, author of Wiseguy on The Big Heist “The best and last word on the subject. . . . DeStefano brings the story to life.” —Jerry Capaci, creator of the website GangLandNews “DeStefano tells Costello's story well.” —Kirkus Reviews “A master at cutting through the secrecy of the Mafia.” —Publishers Weekly

Charles "Lucky" Luciano

The Luciano Story

The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster

The Drug Wars in America, 1940-1973

The Cuban Connection

Growing Up In The Luciano Family

The Case Against Lucky Luciano

Lucky Luciano - The Father of Modern Organized Crime is the biography of Lucky Luciano, who was a prominent Sicilian-American mobster. Luciano is considered the father of modern organized crime and the mastermind of the massive postwar expansion of the international heroin trade. He is the first official boss of the modern Genovese crime family. Luciano elevated his trusted and loyal family members to high-level positions in the Luciano crime family. Even today Luciano is recognized as the biggest gangster ever and one of the most influential criminals in world history due to his direct participation in major criminal conspiracies like the establishment of Cosa Nostra in the United States and the importation of heroin during his exile in Italy. Lucky Luciano - The Father of Modern Organized Crime is highly recommended for those interested in the history and story of Lucky Luciano and organized crime in America.

Lucky Luciano's posthumous memoirs may well have cost him his life. The partner of Meyer Lansky and Bugsy Siegel, the man who created and controlled the "Commission" and the set down the rules, wanted to have his side of the story on record. It turns out that most of Luciano's criminal activity coincides with the history of the Mafia in America in the first half of the twentieth century and beyond. In preparation for a film of his life story, the famous New York gangster living in a golden exile in Naples recounted the main incidents of his life to producer Martin A. Gosch. Back in the United States, the new leaders of the Mafia were not pleased about the project that had almost reached completion and was ready to be turned into a screenplay. It is almost certain that their displeasure was communicated to "Charlie Lucky" with a hint to forget about the idea altogether. But Luciano went ahead anyway, compelled by the need to tell all and in some way offer an explanation about a life of crime. After taking a sip of espresso coffee at Naples airport as he waited for Gosch to land, Luciano died of a massive heart attack. Or was it something else? The film was never made, so this book remains the only account of the life of the man known as the "Boss of Bosses." Martin A. Gosch is deceased, and Richard Hamner lives in New York City.

"This book is a celebration of nearly a century of images of Italians in American motion pictures and their contribution to popular culture." "Hollywood Italians covers the careers of dozens of stars including Rudolph Valentino, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, John Travolta, Sylvester Stallone, Marisa Tomei, James Gandolfini, and many others. In addition, the book reviews the work of such Italian American directors as Francis Ford Coppola and Martin Scorsese." "In all, Hollywood Italians discusses scores of films with a concentration on the most important, including their literary and European cinematic roots. The book is capped by a comprehensive examination of The Godfather and its two sequels, as well as the international television phenomenon The Sopranos."—BOOK JACKET Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

The great founding figures of organized crime in the 20th century were born and bred in New York City, and the city was the basis of their operations. Beginning with Prohibition and going on through many illegal activities the mob became a major force and its tentacles reached into virtually every enterprise, whether legal or illegal: gambling, boxing, labor racketeering, stock fraud, illegal unions, prostitution, food service, garment manufacturing, construction, loan sharking, hijacking, extortion, trucking, drug dealing— you name it the mob controlled it. The men who organized crime in America were the sons of poor immigrants. They were hungry for success and would use whatever means available to achieve their goals. They were not interested in religious identity and ethnic identity. Their syndicate of criminals was made up, primarily of Italians and Jews, but also Irish and black gangsters who could further their ambitions. Their sole objective was always the same – money. It began with Arnold Rothstein, who not only helped to fix the 1919 World Series, but who also mentored and financed the individuals who would control organized crime for decades. Individuals such as Frank Costello, Lucky Luciano, Bugsy Siegel, Joe Adonis, and Meyer Lansky, who would then follow suit setting up other criminal organizations. They established rules of governance, making millions of dollars for themselves and their cohorts. All the organized crime bosses and their cohorts had the same modus operandi: they were far-seeing opportunists who took advantage of every illegal opportunity that came their way for making money. Big Apple Gangsters: The Rise and Decline of the Mob in New York reveals just how influential the mob in New York City was during the 20th century. Jeffrey Sussman entertainingly digs into the origins of organized crime in the 20th century by looking at the corporate activity that dominated this one city and how these entrepreneurial bosses supported successful criminal enterprises in other cities. He also profiles many of the colorful gangsters who followed in the footsteps of gangland ’ s original founders. Throughout the book Sussman provides fascinating portraits of a who ’ s who of gangland. His narrative moves excitingly and entertainingly through the pivotal events and history of organized crime, explaining the birth, growth, maturation, and decline of various illegal enterprises in New York. He also profiles those who prosecuted the mob and won significant verdicts that ended many careers, responsible for bringing many organized crime figures to their knees and then delivering a series of cups de grace – such as Profun Turkus, Thomas Dewey, Robert Kennedy, and Rudolph Giuliani.

The East Village Mafia

Top Hoodlum

New York's Most Sensational Vice Trial

Five Families

A Lifelong Fight for Social Justice

Luciano's Luck

Politics, Justice, and the Legacy of Thomas E. Dewey

Father of Organized Crime, Lucky Luciano born poor in Sicily, came to New York s Lower East Side in the early 1920s. His pals were Irish, Jewish and Italian s criminals. During WWII, Lucky made a deal with the US Government freeing him from prison, returning to Italy, working for the Allies. At war s end back in America his Cuban Casino connection made him persona non grata. Lucky was behind the infamous Atlantic City gathering of top US mobsters including Al Capone, Meyer Lansky and Frank Costello. They ran crime as a business, structured by Luciano as the "Cosa Nostra."

Lansky s statement, "We re bigger than General Motors," became part of gangster lore. An incisive portrait of then prosecuting attorney Thomas E. Dewey whose efforts resulted in Luciano s conviction. This portrait of Organized Crime, was written by top reporter who followed the trial up to the jury verdict, interviewing Luciano, and the prostitutes and pimps who testified against him."

Master story teller Marc Mappen applies a generational perspective to the gangsters of the Prohibition era—men born in the quarter century span from 1880 to 1905—who came to power with the Eighteenth Amendment. On January 16, 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution went into effect in the United States, "outlawing the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors." A group of young criminals from immigrant backgrounds in cities around the nation stepped forward to disobey the law of the land in order to provide alcohol to thirsty Americans. Today the names of these young men—Al Capone, Lucky Luciano, Dutch Schultz, Legs Diamond, Nucky Johnson—are more familiar than ever, thanks in part to such cable programs as Boardwalk Empire. Here, Mappen strips way the many myths and legends from television and movies to describe the lives these gangsters lived and the battles they fought. Placing their criminal activities within the context of the issues facing the nation, from the Great Depression, government crackdowns, and politics to sexual morality, immigration, and ethnicity, he also recounts what befell this villainous group as

the decades unwound. Making use of FBI and other government files, trial transcripts, and the latest scholarship, the book provides a lively narrative of shootouts, car chases, courtroom clashes, wire tapping, and rub-outs in the roaring 1920s, the Depression of the 1930s, and beyond. Mappen asserts that Prohibition changed organized crime in America. Although their activities were mercenary and violent, and they often sought to kill one another, the Prohibition generation built partnerships, assigned territories, and negotiated treaties, however short lived. They were able to transform

the loosely associated gangs of the pre-Prohibition era into sophisticated, complex syndicates. In doing so, they inspired an enduring icon—the gangster—in American popular culture and demonstrated the nation's ideals of innovation and initiative. View a three minute video of Marc Mappen speaking about Prohibition Gangsters.

A detailed look at the charmed life and tragic death of one of Hollywood's earliest stars A vibrant and beloved Golden Age film comedienne who worked alongside the Marx Brothers, Laurel and Hardy, Ginger Rogers, Cary Grant, Clara Bow, and dozens of others, Thelma Todd was one of the rare actors to successfully cross over from silent films to "talkies." This authoritative new biography traces Todd's life and career, from a vivacious little girl to a young woman who became a reluctant beauty queen to her rapid rise as a Hollywood comedy star to her mysterious death at the age of 29. Increasingly disenchant^{ed} with the studio star system, Todd opened the successful Thelma Todd's Sidewalk Café, attracting adoring fans, tourists, and Hollywood celebrities. Life appeared blessed for the beautiful and outspoken Hollywood rebel. So the country was shocked when Todd was found dead by her housekeeper in a garage near the café. An inquest concluded that her death was accidental, caused by inhaling the car's exhaust fumes. In a thorough new investigation that draws on FBI documents, interviews, photographs, reports, and extortion notes—much of these not previously available to the public—author Michelle Morgan offers fresh evidence and conclusions about the circumstances surrounding Todd's death, proving what many people have long suspected, that Thelma had been murdered. The cast of suspects includes Thelma's Hollywood-director lover; her gangster ex-husband; assorted thugs who were pressuring her to install gaming tables in the room above her popular café; and a new, never-before-named mobster. Coinciding with the 80th anniversary of Todd's death, The Ice Cream Blonde is sure to interest any fan of Thelma Todd, Hollywood's Golden Age, or gripping real-life murder mysteries.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) within the U.S. Department of Justice presents FBI case documents in PDF format regarding American Mafia boss Charles "Lucky" Luciano (1897-1962), who became the king of the New York City Mafia in the early 1930s. The infamous gangster, Charles Luciano, was nicknamed "Lucky" after surviving a gangland "ride" in 1929. He had an extensive arrest record and in June, 1936, Luciano was convicted on 62 of 90 counts of compulsory prostitution and was sentenced to 30 to 50 years imprisonment. He was paroled in 1946 on the condition that he would be deported to his native Italy. During the remainder of his life, the FBI received allegations from time to time that Luciano continued to direct criminal activities in the United States from his place of exile. He suffered a fatal heart attack in Italy in 1962. The case file is provided as part of the FBI's Freedom of Information Privacy Acts (FOIPA) Web site.

Lucky Luciano

Hollywood Italians

The Life and Death of Thelma Todd

The Devil Himself

A Fiction in the Form of a Film Script

Charley "Lucky" Luciano was instrumental to the development of the American Mafia and supervised the attempt to dominate prostitution in New York City. Not surprisingly, he has been the subject of numerous biographies, exposés, and various works of urban folklore since his death in 1962. This book takes scholarship on Luciano to a new level, using fresh research on the investigation, arrest, and conviction of Lucky Luciano to delve deep into the sexual and criminal underworld of New York City. Topics include the complex structure of the New York City bordellos and the takeover that resulted in Luciano's 1936 arrest; his considerable role in the expansion of the international heroin trade; and the shocking attempt to sexually frame a member of prosecutor Thomas E. Dewey's staff in a desperate bid to overturn Luciano's conviction.

Was he New York City's last pirate . . . or its first gangster? This is the true story of the bloodthirsty underworld legend who conquered Manhattan, dock by dock—for fans of Gangs of New York and Boardwalk Empire. "History at its best. . . I highly recommend this remarkable book."—Douglas Preston, #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Lost City of the Monkey God Handsome and charismatic, Albert Hicks had long been known in the dive bars and gin joints of the Five Points, the most dangerous neighborhood in maritime Manhattan. For years, he operated out of the public eye, rambling from crime to crime, working on the water in ships, sleeping in the nickel-a-night flops, drinking in barrooms where rat-baiting and bear-baiting were great entertainments. His criminal career reached its peak in 1860, when he was hired, under an alias, as a hand on an oyster sloop. His plan was to rob the ship and flee, disappearing into the teeming streets of lower Manhattan, as he'd done numerous times before, eventually finding his way back to his nearsighted Irish immigrant wife (who, like him, had been discovered by her family) and their infant son. But the plan went awry—the ship was found listing and unmanned in the foggy straits of Coney Island—and the voyage that was to enrich him instead led to his last desperate flight. Long fascinated by gangster legends, Rich Cohen tells the story of this notorious underworld figure, from his humble origins to the wild, globe-crossing, bacchanalian crime spree that forged his ruthlessness and his reputation, to his ultimate incarnation as a demon who terrorized lower Manhattan, at a time when pirates anchored off 14th Street.

Advance praise for The Last Pirate of New York "A remarkable work of scholarship about old New York, combined with a skillfully told, edge-of-your-seat adventure story—I could not put it down."—Ian Frazier, author of Travels in Siberia "With its wise and erudite storytelling, Rich Cohen's The Last Pirate of New York takes the reader on an exciting nonfiction narrative journey that transforms a grisly nineteenth-century murder into a shrewd portent of modern life. Totally unique, totally compelling, I enjoyed every page."—Howard Blum, New York Times bestselling author of Gangland and American Lightning