

MAFIA D.N.A.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BELONG TO THE MAFIA?

CALABRIAN N'DRANGHETA. JAPANESE YAKUZA. CHINESE TRIADS. RUSSIAN VORY.
MEXICAN LOS ZETAS. HELLS ANGELS. THE BLACK MAFIA FAMILY.



INITIATION. BROTHERHOOD. CODES.
AMBITION & BETRAYAL.
HONOR & DEATH.

A TV DOCUMENTARY SERIES

7 X 48 MIN.

What's the deal?

Mafia DNA, a new documentary series takes an insider view of the world's most violent and notorious crime factions through the lens of those who have experienced it from the inside

The Mafia, La Cosa Nostra, La Camorra, Gangsters, the Crips, the Bloods, Hoodlums, Racketeers, Bootleggers, Triads, Yakuza, Syndicates, Crews... There are many names for the Mafia and similar organizations throughout the world. But all crime gangs, wherever they're from, wherever they operate, have this in common; they are tightly bound groups of individuals, who often resemble families, or at the very least, clans, that make their living from organized crime. Their top money-making industries are well-known: drug trafficking, human trafficking (often for prostitution), smuggling migrants, dealing in illegal firearms, selling weapons, trafficking in natural resources (like diamonds), trading in endangered wildlife (including poaching), selling fraudulent medicines, and spreading cybercrime. What they do, is well documented. How they go about their trade, and what life really looks like from the inside of these organizations, is less well known.

In this series we will not focus on telling the chronological story of the various Mafias and their origins; there are enough television programs out there that have already done that. Instead, we will examine the unique symbols, rules and codes that characterize some of the world's most notorious names in organized crime. We will investigate their secret oaths of silence, their initiation ceremonies and established hierarchies, and the application of their "Codes of Honor". We will try to understand their unique languages, their signs, their gestures; in short, we will look at their communication, which is so often full of intricate codes. We will also look into their complex hierarchical organizations, from the men-of-honor, the foot-soldiers and assassins, right up to their great leaders in command. In short, we will analyze, episode-by-episode, the true DNA of the leading Mafias of the world.



Main Concept - Brotherhood, Honor, Power; Unraveling the global mafia's DNA codes

Mafia D.N.A. is not based entirely on the interviews we'll conduct. Far from it. A significant source is judicial evidence, biographical data, and conversations recorded by the police in the course of their investigations. Buried in court files, one can find priceless insights into the life of the people.

With this series, we want to bring to the fore the human side of criminal conspiracies. It describes "Mafiosi" as people, no smarter than the rest of us, who make mistakes and occasionally get swindled, ending up dead or behind bars. Just like the rest of us, Mafiosi are born and grow up, perhaps get married, find a job or manage a business, save and invest money, engage in politics, get sick, and eventually die.

This eye-opening series explores a secret society fueled by illicit criminal activity from sex trafficking, gambling, extortion and drug smuggling to include interviews with experts and former and current members of law enforcement - mafia hunters from around the world [United States FBI, DEA and ATF officers, Russia's SVR agents, Japan's anti-mafia task force agents and Chinese police] - those who conduct stings, go undercover, befriend and infiltrate these deadly organizations to reveal details of their inner operations, secret rituals, loyalty tests and initiation rites.

We'll also include exclusive interviews with former and current Mafia members who tell us how and why they joined - for many it's a choice for life, others struggle to get out - we'll learn what it takes to turn your back and walk away and what revenge and retribution mean to those who have what it takes to stay - true Mafia DNA.



EPISODE 1: YAKUZA, TAKING THE EXTREME PATH

The notorious Yakuza, also known as gokudō, "the extreme path", are a unique band of organized criminals; because, despite their numerous illegal activities, many leaders and members of the Yakuza are still at large throughout Japan, and operate reasonably freely through a mixture of legal and illegal activities and investments, and they are even known for charitable work, following the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan.

At their height, in the early 1960s, they operated internationally – many Yakuza are ethnic Koreans – and police estimated their membership at 184,100. Today, their numbers are closer to 40,000. Known for their slick backed hair, smart black suits and intricate, symbolic tattoos, applied with handmade tools, and identifiable by the missing tips of their little fingers (lopping them off to show contrition to their boss is known as "Yubitsume"), Yakuza are often involved in politics and take up positions as directors on corporate boards. They have business cards, office buildings, and frequently show up in gossip columns of newspapers. All the same, the Yakuza are one of the most fearsome and richest Mafias in the world, and their position of semi-legality is unique, unthinkable in other countries. Aside from their unusual position in Japanese society, their code of honor, handed down from generations is another genuine curiosity, and it consists of three main commandments:

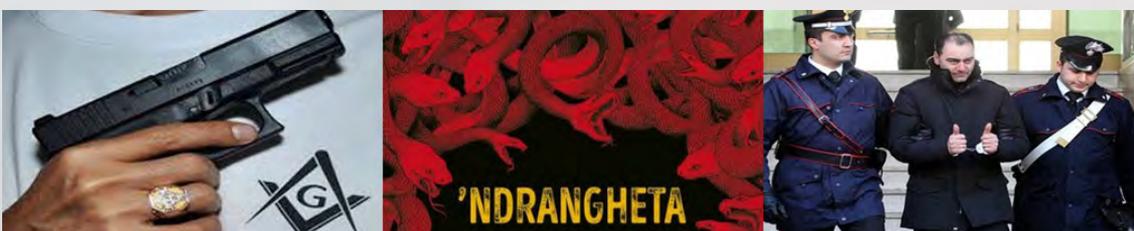
- Do not touch the wife of a fellow Yakuza.
- Do not reveal to anyone the secrets of the organization.
- Always be loyal to your boss.



EPISODE 2: HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE THE 'NDRANGHETA?

They might not be as famous as the Mafioso of Sicily and its offshoots in New York City, or the Camorra of Old Napoli (Naples), but make no mistake; the 'Ndrangheta, which originated in Calabria, (the toe of the so-called 'boot' of Italy), is today the most powerful crime syndicate in Italy, if not the world. Naturally, the 'Ndrangheta has close associations with the Mafia and Camorra, and, having spread to Northern Italy in the late 1970s, it has now gone global, with branches everywhere from Australia & Argentina, to Canada & The US, to the UK & Germany. In 2008 their income was said to be around 55 billion dollars, and in 2010, a US diplomat estimated that the organization's narcotics trafficking, extortion and money laundering activities accounted for at least 3% of Italy's GDP. Indeed, the 'Ndrangheta is the only Mafia-like criminal enterprise with presence on all five populated continents. According to Europol the 'Ndrangheta is among the richest and most powerful organised crime groups at a global level.

Again, according to Europol, the 'Ndrangheta *own* the trafficking of cocaine in Europe today. With such a big global presence and considerable control over cocaine trafficking (they import cocaine from Colombia), come considerable powers of decision-making and dominance over the black market economy, making the 'Ndrangheta a powerful criminal organization indeed. There are two ways to join the 'Ndrangheta: One, the most common, by birth into a family; or, Two, by "baptism", through the "affiliation" rite, which binds the supplicant to the organization for life. Just as with any other self-respecting Mafia, there is only one way to leave the 'Ndrangheta – By dying. Although there are said to be a small number of former members in witness protection programs. Indeed the Second 'Ndrangheta War (1985-91) resulted in some 600 deaths. It supposedly got so bad that to stem the bloodshed, the Sicilian Mafia intervened and (most probably) set up the 'Ndrangheta governing body, La Provincia. Their hierarchy is intricate and complicated, a little like the Masons, in that there are numerous degrees: "Picciotto", "Camorrista", "Sgarrista", "Santista", "Evangelista", "Quartino", "Trequartino", "Godfather" and "Capobastone" are the supposed "Gifts" with which an 'Ndranghetista can be rewarded.



EPISODE 3: THE POWER & THE VORY

Now we come to arguably the scariest organized crime group of them all; the Russian Mafia, known to most English speakers as the Vory. Originating in the Gulags (the forced labor camps) under Stalin, the Vory are a criminal culture with their own slang, codes and laws, and they operate throughout the countries of the former Soviet Union, including some former nations of the Warsaw Pact. To give them their full title, they are the Vory v Zakone, literally, "thieves in law", and there are two equally valid interpretations for this phrase: legalized thieves, and thieves who *are* the law. A former FBI Special Agent once called the Vory "the most dangerous people on earth". It is estimated that they have as many as 300,000 members among 450 groups. Vory culture sprang from organized crime within the prisons and those origins remain very much embedded within the Vory DNA; only repeatedly jailed convicts are eligible for Vor (or, thief) status. Each new Vor is scrutinized and only accepted by the agreement of several Vory, and then "crowned", through respective rituals and intricate, hierarchical tattoos. To be a Vor is to be a thief, a respected title in the underground. The Vory swear to a code of complete submission to the laws of criminal life, including the rejection of all legitimate forms of employment, refusal to participate in all political activities, and absolute refusal to assist the state in any capacity.

For example, even those Vory who joined the Red Army during World War II were ostracised when they found themselves back in the gulag. A far-from-civil war then broke out between the supposedly pure Vory and the so-called Suki (or, "bitches"): men who had faced down the Nazis in brutal war resented being blacklisted and had the toughness and the skills to fight back. Today, the Vory frequently employ military tactics to meet their criminal ends, and their most common activities are terrorism, organ trafficking, and contract killing. Prison tattoos, usually performed with rudimentary tools, indicate their rank within the criminal world, their noteworthy criminal accomplishments and places of former incarceration. For example, a tattoo of one cat indicates that the bearer robs alone while multiple cats indicate that he works with partners. An eight-pointed star tattooed on the shoulder is the Vory's main calling card. It's been said that while the Communist Party held a steadfast grip on government and society, the Vory held a monopoly on crime.



EPISODE 4: LOS ZETAS ° THE STRUGGLE FOR MEXICO'S SOUL

In this 4th episode of our series, we come to arguably the darkest, and the most dangerous and nihilistic of the Mafias operating in Mexico – and the efore in the world today – Los Zetas. Los Zetas – literally, the letter Zees, or Zeds – began life in Mexico, in 1999. At this time, the head of the criminal Gulf Cartel, Osiel Cárdenas Guillén, felt threatened by both his gangland rivals and by law enforcement in the form of the Police and the Mexican military, so he decided to recruit his own real life army. Cárdenas sought out Arturo Guzmán Decena, an officer in Mexico's Special Forces.

Over time, Decena brought with him more than thirty deserters from the Army's elite commando unit, the GAFE, to become Cárdenas's personal bodyguards and own private army. The men who had been trained by Israeli Commandos and US Special Forces to track down and combat the nation's gangsters were now being paid handsomely to defend them. So, the private army of the Cartel of the Gulf was born and was christened Los Zetas, named after the radio code of its first commander, "Z1", a code given to high-ranking officers.

Other versions of the story claim that Los Zetas are so named after one of the most evocative names of Mexican history, the Z of Zorro. Whatever the truth of it, Los Zetas are far from being the heroic champions of ordinary, downtrodden people. For, to defend their activities of drug trafficking, sex trafficking, gun running, protection rackets and extortion, Los Zetas engages in extremely violent tactics such as beheadings, torture, and indiscriminate murder.



EPISODE 5 : THE CHINESE TRIAD SOCIETY THE INVISIBLE EMPIRE

Starting from a patriotic movement to re-establish the domination of the Ming in China, the triads have subsequently turned to crimes, including drugs, extortion, gambling, prostitutes and the smuggling of human beings. The triad maintains a rigid central control over the behavior and activities of its members, who consider themselves blood brothers and expect them to be loyal and virtuous.

In this episode, with the help of our experts, we will try to analyze their organizational structure, recruitment mechanism, their initiation ceremony, oaths, their rituals, secret codes and their communication system. The affiliation presupposes an oath which is divided into thirty-six promises, which can be summarized in the commitment to preserve the secrecy of the triad, to provide assistance to members in danger, respect the traditional values, from pain of the imposition of heavy corporal sanctions, up to the death penalty for the most serious transgressions.

The technique of conquering the territory, put to the test in England, Holland, Canada, United States of America and recently also in France, Germany and Italy, passes through the acquisition of all the economic activities of the district and the progressive expulsion - induced or forced - of the residents, until the establishment of a real enclave: the so-called Chinatown, difficult to penetrate both by the police and other criminal groups. In this way, the Tong have supplanted "Cosa Nostra" both in the management of the usual criminal activities - drugs, prostitution and gambling - and, above all, offering completely new services, such as the trafficking of adolescents and the trade of organs for transplants.



EPISODE 6 : THE HELLS ANGELS , I'M BOUND TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY SERVED MY TIME IN HELL."

Hunter S. Thompson, Hells Angels

First, you hear the thunderous throbbing of three dozen Harley-Davidsons ceaselessly snaking along the curve. Then, you see them. A band of outlaw bikers, the Hells Angels, masters of the highway, pushing you in double rows. Expressive, they are decorated with matted hair and beards, tattoo mosaics and ripped jeans covered with bits of skulls, swastikas and cryptic letters and numbers.

Maybe you're scared, even if it's just for a little while. The Hells Angels Motorcycle Club is an OMG with between 2,000 and 2,500 members who belong to over 230 chapters in the U.S. and in 26 foreign countries. The Hells Angels pose a criminal threat on six continents. U.S. law enforcement authorities estimate that the Hells Angels have more than 92 chapters in 27 states with a membership in excess of 800 persons. The Hells Angels are involved in the production, transportation and distribution of marijuana and methamphetamine. Additionally, the Hells Angels are involved in the transportation and distribution of cocaine, hashish, heroin, LSD , ecstasy, PCP (phencyclidine) and diverted pharmaceuticals. The Hells Angels are also involved in other criminal activity including assault, extortion, homicide, money laundering and motorcycle theft. The Angels, have a strict management structure, sophisticated communication systems and - when they need it - paramilitary discipline.

Most other bikers treat them with deference and fear. From rape to robbery and meth to murder, the Hells Angels have made a name for themselves as the most infamous motorcycle club in history. They are incredibly devious. Law enforcement officials have compared their cunning to that of the snipe, a cunning beast that many have seen but few have ever trapped. The club has written rules with severe penalties - from suspension for those who do not pay expulsion fees to captured members who treat lower quality drugs, inject drugs or use crack.

The typical Hells Angel is obsessed with strength and toughness, with taking risks and flaunting his sexual virility. Women are not to be members; as "old ladies," they are highly subservient. But they flock to the club because of the glamour and to be part of a strong extended family. Some have ended up as prostitutes, abused, beaten, or even murdered.



EPISODE 7 : THE BLACK MAFIA FAMILY

In this episode a deep look at the rules, the rites of entry, the structure, cleverly hidden in the plots of entertainment, to the Black Mafia Family, one of the largest drug organizations in US history. In the early 1990s, Demetrius "Big Meech" Flenory and his brother, Terry "Southwest T", sprang up from the Detroit slums to build one of the greatest cocaine empires in American history: the black mafia family. They socialized with music tycoon Sean "Diddy" Combs, did business with the king of bling New Yorker Jacob "The Jeweler" Arab and made alliances with rap superstars Young Jeezy and Fabolous.

The brothers Demetrius and Terry Flenory founded the BMF (black mafia family) in their hometown of Detroit, but it was in Atlanta where the brothers transformed the drug organization into a national wholesa-le cocaine empire. He trained in Detroit in the late 1980s and managed his distribution hub in Atlanta in the 1990s and early 2000s. Demetrius "Big Meech" Flenory managed the distribution of BMF here, and his brother, Terry " Southwest T "Flenory, managed the supply from Mexico to Los Angeles. At their peak, Demetrius aka Big Meech and Terry aka Southwest T employed a network of several hundred couriers, distributors and money launderers in nearly a dozen states. BMF had its back on the wholesale cocaine market in Atlanta.

BMF Entertainment was the musical label of the organization. It operated from Atlanta and was Big Meech's pet project. Drug money funded BMF Entertainment's recordings - along with billboards, T-shirts and club parties that boldly marketed the BMF brand. Only one artist was signed to BMF Entertainment for the label, Bleu DaVinci. Big Meech had become a fixture in the Atlanta hip-hop scene, promoting BMF as a record label and appearing on video for Young Jeezy and Bleu DaVinci. At the same time, the feds were listening to wiretaps, setting up surveillance teams and building the case that would overthrow the BMF empire.

When the brothers began to clash in 2003, the showy and beloved Big Meech risked everything in a stroke of legitimacy in the music industry. At the same time, using a high-stake interception operation, the feds approached their goal of destroying the Flenory empire and ending the reign of a crew suspected of selling thousands of kilos of cocaine and a half dozen unsolved murders. Testing authorities of telephone interceptions have achieved that Southwest T, coupled with Big Meech's flashy behavior, has helped make BMF fall. Hundreds of BMF members have been indicted and, in the end, people have started lighting the brothers. It is estimated that the black mafia family has moved about a quarter of a billion dollars into drugs.





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