

# MAFIA D.N.A.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BELONG TO THE MAFIA?

CALABRIAN N'DRANGHETA. RUSSIAN VORY. JAPANESE YAKUZA.  
MEXICAN CARTELS. CHINESE TRIADS. THE BLOODS AND CRIPS.



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

A TV DOCUMENTARY SERIES

6 X 60 MIN.

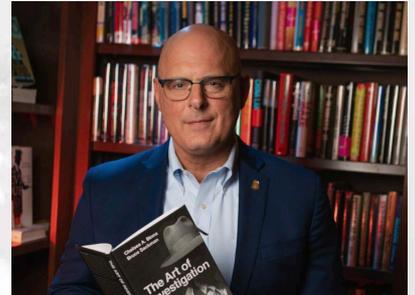
## What's the deal?

Mafia D.N.A., takes an inside look at some of the world's most violent and notorious crime factions operating throughout the world today. With our exclusive access to CIA, FBI, and other former undercover special agents, we hear from the people who were directly involved on the inside.

The Mafia, La Cosa Nostra, La Camorra, Gangsters, the Crips, the Bloods, Hoodlums, Racketeers, Bootleggers, Triads, Yakuza, Syndicates, Crews... gangs have been around forever, but what do the inner workings of the biggest criminal operations look like today? And how much money are they actually bringing in? Mafia D.N.A. uncovers what life really looks like from the inside of these organizations today, and investigates the extent of their various trades.

## JAMES GAGLIANO

Consulted by James Gagliano, former undercover FBI Special Agent tasked with penetrating the most notorious organized crime families in America. Now a globally respected expert on criminal justice, complex law enforcement and counter-terror matters for CNN. His expertise and 25 years of experience will help paint an invaluable picture of the inner workings of our mafias.



## Main Concept - Brotherhood, Honor, Power; Unraveling the global mafia's D.N.A. codes

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.

A significant source of our research will come from judicial evidence, biographical data, and conversations recorded by the police in the course of their investigations. 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 D.N.A.

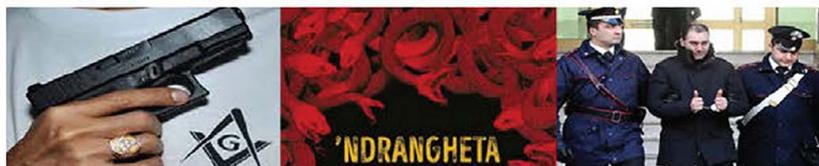


## EPISODE 1: HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE THE 'NDRANGHETA?

They might not be as famous as the Mafioso of Sicily and its offshoots in New York City, or the Camorra of Old Napoli, but make no mistake; the 'Ndrangheta, which originated in Calabria, (the toe of the so-called 'boot' of Italy), is the most powerful Italian crime syndicate in the world today. Unlike the more closed circles of the Mafia and Camorra, the 'Ndrangheta have a global footprint, with branches everywhere from Australia & Argentina, to Canada & The U.S., to the UK & Germany. A recent Financial Times article calls them "one of the most dangerous, internationally active and financially sophisticated criminal enterprises in the western world." According to Europol the 'Ndrangheta is among the richest and most powerful organized crime groups at a global level.

They account for a considerable amount of the cocaine and weapons trafficking in western Europe, and have an increasing presence in the cocaine black markets of the U.S. and Canada. Most recently, the 'Ndrangheta was exposed for taking advantage of Italy's public health system in the wake of COVID-19.

Just like the other Italian Mafia families, there is only one way to leave the 'Ndrangheta – by dying. In this episode, we will uncover the unique traditions and rituals of the 'Ndrangheta, and expose the different illegal activities that the organization is involved with today, focusing on their growing presence in the U.S.



## EPISODE 2: 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 operating in cities from East Asia to the United States.

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. Although Russian organized crime activity in the United States has been expanding for the past 20 years, its most significant growth has occurred during the past five years. FBI stated that over 200 of Russia's 6,000-odd crime gangs operate with American counterparts in 17 U.S. cities across 14 states.

Vory culture sprang from organized crime within the prisons and those origins remain very much embedded within the Vory D.N.A.; only repeatedly jailed convicts are eligible for Vor (or, thief) status. Each new Vor is scrutinized and only accepted by the agreement of several Vors, 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.



## EPISODE 3: YAKUZA, TAKING THE EXTREME PATH

Many know the history of the notorious Japanese gang, the Yakuza, also known as gokudo, "the extreme path," but how are they still operating today? At their height, in the early 1960s, their membership was estimated at 184,100. Today, their numbers are closer to 40,000, but they are far from gone, just more discreet in their operations...

Known for their slick backed hair, smart black suits and intricate, symbolic tattoos, the Yakuza have been at war with the National Police Agency in Japan since 2009, when police chief, Takaharu Ando, publicly vowed to destroy the Yakuza's leading faction, the Kodo-Kai. For decades the Yakuza have enjoyed being involved in politics and operating as any other business in Japan. They have business cards, office buildings, and are even listed as official businesses on the National Police Agency's website.

Since 2009, the gang has adapted to less violent and less dangerous crimes in a conscious effort to avoid negative perception in the media. While they are still suspected of selling drugs and other illegal activities, they have pivoted into cyber-crime and other less provocative crimes. Still, Japan and other countries continue to crack down on the worldwide gang. In 2018, the US Treasury imposed sanctions on several Yakuza-owned companies and companies suspected of Yakuza involvement.



## EPISODE 4: MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS, THE STRUGGLE FOR MEXICO'S SOUL

In this episode of our series, we come to the darkest, and the most dangerous and nihilistic of the Mafias operating in the world today – The Mexican drug cartels. In this episode, we will investigate what it's like to be a member of the Sinaloa Cartel, Jalisco New Generation Cartel, the Gulf Cartel, and finally, Los Zetas.

Extreme violence, and an unmatched blood-lust is central to the identity of the Mexican drug cartels. They are known for committing be-headings, torture, and indiscriminate murder as means to impose fear among their enemies. Because most members are former special forces or former military members, their competence with and access to firearms, makes them a deadly force to be reckoned with. Their most profitable industries include drug trafficking, sex trafficking, and gun running into the U.S. and Canada.

In Mexico, they have had a complicated relationship with the government, which has increasingly become more tough on the cartels. The cartels pour millions into local and federal campaigns that they feel can benefit their organization, but they are still seen as an enemy of the state.



## EPISODE 5 : THE CHINESE TRIAD SOCIETY , THE INVISIBLE EMPIRE

The Triads started out as a partisan organization aimed at overthrowing the Qing Dynasty. Over time, the Triad became a criminal organization. The Triads blossomed in the U.S. because the Chinese community was essentially left to govern themselves in the 19th Century, and the Triads happily stepped into this vacuum. They subsequently turned to crimes, including drugs, extortion, gambling, prostitutes and the smuggling of human beings. Specifically, the Triads are increasingly involved in the smuggling of illegal aliens. U.S. officials estimate that up to 100,000 Chinese are illegally smuggled into the country each year, many of them forced to live in involuntary servitude for years while they work off their debt to the gangsters. In San Francisco's Chinatown, most of the buildings are owned by Tongs and Associations, a company with deep ties to the Triads.

In this episode, with the help of our experts, we will analyze the organizational structure and which illegal activities that the Triads still operate today, and determine just how large their global footprint is.



## EPISODE 6 : THE BLOODS AND CRIPS , A FIERCE RIVALRY OF RED AND BLUE

The Bloods and the Crips are two of the most notorious U.S. gangs to come out of Los Angeles in the early 70s. Known for their fierce rivalry of one another, and their signature colors, the Bloods and the Crips are most widely recognized by the red (worn by members of the Bloods) and the blue (worn by members of the Crips).

Where do these signature colors originate from? In addition to the signature colors, both gangs have an extensive lore of hand signals, gang signs, vocabulary, and initiation rituals that all members are expected to embody for life, even the ones that make it out... In 2015, a multi-platinum recording artist and widely known member of New York's Nine Trey Bloods named Tekashi 69 plead guilty to a felony for involving a child in a sex act. In 2018, Tekashi was arrested again on racketeering and weapons charges before being released early in 2020 due to COVID 19. The case recieved notable media attention due to the popularity of the artist and the fact that he betrayed multiple members of his former gang - a significant offense within the Bloods.

In this episode of Mafia D.N.A., we will explore the traditions, rituals, and symbols intrinsic to the two most notorious U.S. gangs and examine how they have evolved since their formations in the 70s.





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