

Summary

Salvatore Lupo,

The American Mafia: transplantig or hybrid?

In the tradition of the United States debate, the term organized crime underlines the linkage between the Underworld and the Upperworld, the pluri-ethnic characteristic of the criminal phenomenon, and the role of the Wasp establishment. The term Mafia underlines instead the mono-ethnic trait of the crime, and the deep involvement of the Italian or Sicilian traditional culture in sustaining criminal behaviour. The author takes into account the development of the debate from the beginning of the Twentieth Century to today, and the difficult questions of identity of the Italo-American community. The author underlines the importance of a non-ethnic approach to the problem, but also deals with the issue of the networks (into the wider framework of Us organized crime) that linked the American and the Sicilian side of specific Mafia groups in various topic moments of the century.

Rocco Sciarrone

The Mafias from Local Society to Global Economy

Although their historical and geographic specificity is widely recognized, we might also assume the Italian *mafias* as ideal-types of the organized crime. The main purpose is here to deal with their processes of reproduction and transformation. Starting from the historical contexts within which the Italian *mafias* took their origin, my analysis has been gradually including more and more contents. First, I am concerned with the main factors that have led to the *mafia's* successful pattern. Among other factors, my hypothesis especially refers to the *mafia's* «external relationships», by which I mean the social capital deriving from its capability of constructing social relationships and networks. Second, I describe the *mafia* as a local society's phenomenon. As such, its territorial power structure based on the extortion/protection process is quite important. Then, I analyze the *mafia's* processes of territorial expansion into untraditional areas. To this regard, different theses and interpretations are to be taken into account and compared with each other - such as: the thesis that denies the *mafia's* exportability; the contagion metaphor; the *piovra* image; the expansion strategies. What makes the transnational organized crime relevant is the globalization of economy. Therefore, the connection between globalization and crime is to be examined. The key-connection, I assume, is here between economy and regulation. And I hypothesize that the decline of national States and the crisis of political regulatory patterns affect

the expansion of organized crime. The more criminal groups are structured, the more they act successfully both at the local and global levels. The conclusive paragraph of the article is about new types of landscapes and «criminalscapes» related to globalization.

Paola Monzini

The case of Marseilles: fragments for a history of organized crime

Organised crime groups with foreign roots have their place in the Marseilles' urban life since the beginning of the XX century. This article presents their evolution during the XX century, with an emphasis on Corsican groups. Main turning points are singled-out with the help of biographical examples. The changing social roles of professional gangsters and the changing attitudes of the upper-world toward the underworld are analysed as well. The case of Marseilles clearly shows how organised crime groups' success, or failure, mainly depends on the opportunities they can find within the wider «legal» context.

Stefano Becucci

*Chinese Organized Crime in Italy:
Mafia Type Organizations or Criminal Gangs?*

The article takes into consideration the phenomenon of Chinese organized crime in Italy and questions whether it should be considered in terms of mafia-type organizations or gangs. On the basis of the analysis of statistical data and judicial files, Chinese organized crime shows both some characteristics similar to Mafia type organizations and others which are quite different. At one hand, Chinese organized crime exercises heavy influence over their own ethnic communities aimed at managing legal and illegal activities; at the other, they display a loose and poorly structured organization which is far from the vertical organization adopted by Cosa nostra and its articulated symbolic and ritual framework.

Monica Massari

Mafias, Transnational Crime in the Globalization Era: the Italian Case

The emergence of a growing public concern toward the activities undertaken by criminal groups composed of foreigners has led both institutional and academic observers to raise the alarm on the level of sophistication and dangerousness of these groups and to overshadow the current threat posed by traditional mafia-type organizations. On the basis of the analysis of a number of empirical evidences on the phenomenon, the Author argues that the role played by foreign criminal groups in the Italian underworld is still confined to specific illegal markets and that any substitution process with more structured forms of criminality has taken place yet. On the contrary, the spheres of activity of the two different actors – foreign criminal networks and traditional mafia-type groups – are different and very well defined, while the type of influence exerted by the former is still confined to their own ethnic communities. Thus, the need to contextualize the type of threat posed by foreign criminal groups in Italy and to find alternative

definitions (to *mafias*) in order to describe them.

Francesca Longo
Identity, security, frontiers.
Fighting with the organized crime in the European Union

This article analyses the European Union' policy on fighting transnational organised crime from the perspective of political discourses and identifies three key-concepts- Identity, Security and Borders standing at the basis of the institutional rhetoric of the European Institutions. In this perspective the policy against Transnational organised crime is interpreted not only as a functionalist cooperation, but also as a step of the process of «State Building» of the European Union.

Ada Becchi
The Mafias: mercenary troops and organized crime

In the political or technical debate as well as in the scientific literature concerned mafias and organized crime are generally considered as synonymous. On the contrary they seem to be very different things. Organized crime is one of the consequences of the fact that the modern state chose to manage the border between upper and underworld introducing prohibition or repressive regulations. Criminal activities generated by that choice had been so profitable to give to the criminal groups a more powerful tool than the traditional one of violence: corruption. The mafias' phenomenon has different characteristics in the different contexts in which it appeared. Mafia of western Sicily that had been the archetype for the spread use of the name, was something similar to a number of mercenary armies in service of the dominant classes of the area, and evolved as such as well as *relé* charged to control the electoral behaviors of people. At a great extent this mafia can be valued as a consequence of the annexation policy adopted to build the political unity of the country. While organized crime is a product of modernization, this mafia is a product of difficulties to accept modernization. Policies aimed to attack the two things should so have different characteristics: it should be an irrefutable goal to eliminate mafia, while organized crime (if regulations persist) can only be kept under control.

Stefania Barca
Entropy. A new paradigm for economic history?

The article examines some of the literature about the relationship between economic theory and economic history, considering above all the problem of thermodynamics. Firstly, the author stresses the notion of paradigm, in the sense of theoretical framework, underlying the interpretations of historical evolution and «progress». Then, a definition of entropic paradigm is suggested, as an alternative tool for economic historians. In addition, the article examines the Marxian view of the labour of nature as a part of the theory of value.

Laura Azzolina
The sicilian political elite

The article analyses how political elite changes in different historical context of the 1950s and the 1990s. Two moments in which very strong transformations are made in political system, both at national and at local level. The article underlines the persistence of selection elite forms.

Isaia Sales
Italian federalism

In 2001, just a few weeks before the elections, the Italian Parliament approved a constitutional reform, introducing Italy to «federalism». The central left, with direct opposition from the central right approved this reform that for the previous decade seemed to be supported only by the Lega of Bossi. There are two possible explanations for the sudden «federalist passion» of the Ulivo and Ds party. First is the disintegration of the national unity under attack by the Lega. And second is the political worries electoral consensus in the North. In reality, the concern was considerably overrated. The risk of a succession has never been very strong in Italy. And after Italy adopted European single currency system in May of 1998, according to the Maastricht Treaty, it was no longer a political factor at all. This was contrary to what the Lega was supporting, having fought their major battle to reach this objective of succession. We wonder why the central right supported this social reform that is substantially outside their historical position. The federalist factions were always a minority both in the Dc (the catholic party) and in the communist left. Each new federalist reform must change the structure of taxes and acquisitions. The Ulivo and Ds did not calculate the implications that the reform would have in a country like Italy where there are large differences in production capacity and distribution of wealth in different regions. This was a sign of superficiality and inattention to the details on their part. Federalism is justified only if, when together with the problem of a different organization of the State, one addresses the solution to the problems of the South. There is not a way to a successful soft landing for federalism in Italy without: reducing the economic distance between regions of the same nation with good living conditions and more autonomous productivity and government in all regions.