The Mafia: A Continued Plague Upon the Modern Italian State

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Research Question & Thesis

- **Research Question:** How has the Mafia managed to survive in the modern Italian State? Why is the Mafia still influential in Italy?

- **Thesis:** If the government and political system of the Italian State is not corrected, the disorganization, corruption and ineffectiveness of state officials will continue, as will the Mafia.

- **Sources:** books, films, a documentary, interviews, website of Italy’s Anti-Mafia department (DIA), FBI
Origins, Structure & Facts

- Grew out of the feudalistic structure of Sicilian society during the early to mid 1800s
- Evolution of gabellotti and compagnie d’armi
- Mafia has a structured hierarchy and is maintained through its code of silence, Omertà
- 80% of Sicilian businesses pay protection fee, il pizzo
How does the Mafia Survive?

- Building contracts (€2,000/mth)
- Cigarette smuggling
- Drug trafficking (Heroin => Cocaine)
- Prostitution (particularly the Camorra)
- Engrained in Sicilian culture
- Sicilian economy (25%-30% unemployment; 8.7% in Italy)

### VALORI DEI SEQUESTRI E DELLE CONFISCHE (DAL 1992 - 2009)
(I valori dei beni sequestrati e confiscati sono espressi in euro)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizzazioni</th>
<th>Sequestri</th>
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<th>Confische</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cosa Nostra</td>
<td>1.669.544.080</td>
<td>2.034.264.000</td>
<td>797.594.114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camorra</td>
<td>1.773.286.000</td>
<td>1.411.885.823</td>
<td>615.399.000</td>
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<td>'Ndrangheta</td>
<td>197.978.998</td>
<td>438.819.254</td>
<td>124.558.000</td>
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<td>Crim.Org.Pugl.</td>
<td>68.297.795</td>
<td>79.629.000</td>
<td>66.078.698</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>584.519.000</td>
<td>173.747.000</td>
<td>84.438.000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.293.625.873</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.138.345.077</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.688.067.812</strong></td>
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*According to the Direzione Investigativa Antimafia website*
The Reign of *la Democrazia Cristiana*

- Remained in power from 1945-1992
- Allowed for abuse of power
- No appropriate alternative
- Received 50% of vote in Sicily, 30% in Italy
- *Pentiti* confirmed relationship between party and known Mafia members
- Replaced by Silvio Berlusconi’s *Forza Italia*!
‘Tangentopoli’ and the 90s

- Strong culture of clientelism
- Patronage-based system
- Corruption, fraud, bribery
- “Business Politicians” took % cuts from public building contracts
- *Pentiti* (Mannoia, Buscetta)
- Maxi Trial (February 1986) and its aftermath
- Falcone & Borsellino assassinated
Today

- Berlusconi has gone to trial 12 times
- Marcello Dell’Utri found guilty of Mafia collusion, tax fraud in 1999
- Andreotti charged with Mafia collusion and murder, acquitted in 2003; made lifetime senator
- Carnevale reinstated as judge in 2007
- Rivalry between legislative and judiciary branches, undermine and contradict each other
- Riina & Provenzano captured, Mafia no longer invincible
Conclusion

- Although the Mafia does not hold as much influence in the Italian State as they did during the 1960s-1990s, they are still influential nonetheless.

- No public acts of violence since the 1990s, no more “illustrious corpses”

- Younger generation more prone to speak up and protest

- *Addiopizzo* movement

- Italian public officials still regarded as invincible and corrupt.

- Battle rages on between the legislature and the judiciary

- Relationship between the Mafia and politicians still evident (Berlusconi, Dell’Utri)