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The *mafias* and their global plunder

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New paths for 'quick big money' due to:

- * Globalization of the economy (decentralized administration)**
- * Impaired governments: lack of control**

DIVERSITY, FLEXIBILITY, ADAPTABILITY:

“Transnational criminal organizations are diverse in structure, outlook and membership, but all of them operate across national borders with great ease and provide formidable challenges to law enforcement at both the national and international levels [...]

Because such organizations are highly fluid and have a loose structure, they are able to respond rapidly to law enforcement challenges.”

- **Nexus between Organized Crime, Corruption and Terrorism.**
- **Criminal organizations have expanded into a variety of criminal activities and new groups have emerged in several new and specialized areas.**
- **Shifts in organizational structures and approaches = complex networks of criminal organizations.**

Russian Mafia together with the Italian as the most powerful criminals in the world.



Worldwide presence, from the USA to Israel to Spain.

Areas of Activity:

Fraud, transnational money laundering, extortion, drug trafficking, weapon smuggling, auto theft, prostitution, medical fraud, counterfeiting.



Japanese Mafia (“Yakuza”) as one of the largest criminal organizations in the world.

- Involved in sex industries, extortion, crime in sport, Japanese realty market and banking
- International activities: drug trafficking and arms smuggling

Examples:

USA: smuggling of crystal methamphetamine into the U.S. and smuggling back firearms to Japan.

Latin America: most notably in the illegal immigration business in Mexico and Peru.



Italian mafia as the dominant force of organized crime in the Balkans.

Areas of Activity:

- Trafficking of Illegal weapons (chemical/bacteriological substances, strategic nuclear materials)
- Trafficking of illegal immigrants
- Trafficking of Drugs and counterfeit products



Geographical proximity to the Balkans as basis for the strong Italian intervention.

- The Mexican Mafia (“*La eMe*”) primarily comprised of Mexican-Americans.
- Around 300,000 members in the US
- Criminal activities:
strongly active in the US prison system,
Murder, Conspiracy, Drug trafficking,
Racketeering, Witness intimidation,
Extortion and Gambling



Why address the issue of O.C.?

- 💣 O.C. has profound **social, economic and political consequences.**
- 💣 O.C. **compromises the normal function** of economic, government and social institutions.
- 💣 O.C. **can undermine democratic processes and corrode trust in public institutions.**
- 💣 O.C. is **driven by greed** and perpetuates itself through **addiction, enslavement and the exploitation of human vulnerability.**



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**Thank You
for your attention**

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