



THE FIVE FAMILIES

PEAMUN XII | November 8, 2020





Hello Mafiosi,

My name is Lekha Masoudi and I'm very pleased to welcome you all to the Five Families Crisis committee at PEAMUN XII. Sreesa Virinchi, who will be crisis staff and heading the backroom, and I look forward to a committee full of debate, ever-changing allegiances, crime, and even murder! Not actual murder though. Please do not kill your fellow delegates.

As for some information about myself, I'm a junior originally from Denver, Colorado. I've been a part of MUN since freshman year and ever since the first meeting, I've fallen in love with everything about it, the solutions, crazy situations, friends I've made, and even writing position papers. Besides MUN, I'm a co-head of History Club and of Shakti, our Bollywood dance team! In my free time, I like to read about history and true crime (so you can probably guess where this committee idea came from) and listen to indie music (especially Russian indie music, don't knock it till you try it).

The topic before this committee is as follows: how to resolve the war between Mafia bosses Joe Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano, as well as resolving deeper issues that divide Mafia members. To fully understand the topic at hand, not only should you read your character bio in the background guide, but do as much additional research as is necessary to fully understand your character's background and motives. It must also be said that this topic deals with a good amount of ethnic prejudice and division and we cannot stress enough our expectation that every delegate treats each other with respect and refrains from attacks, even "in character," that use slurs or otherwise offensive language based on race, ethnicity, religion, etc. If you have any questions, whether topic or procedure-related, please email me! I look forward to meeting you all and chairing you in committee!

Best,

Lekha Masoudi

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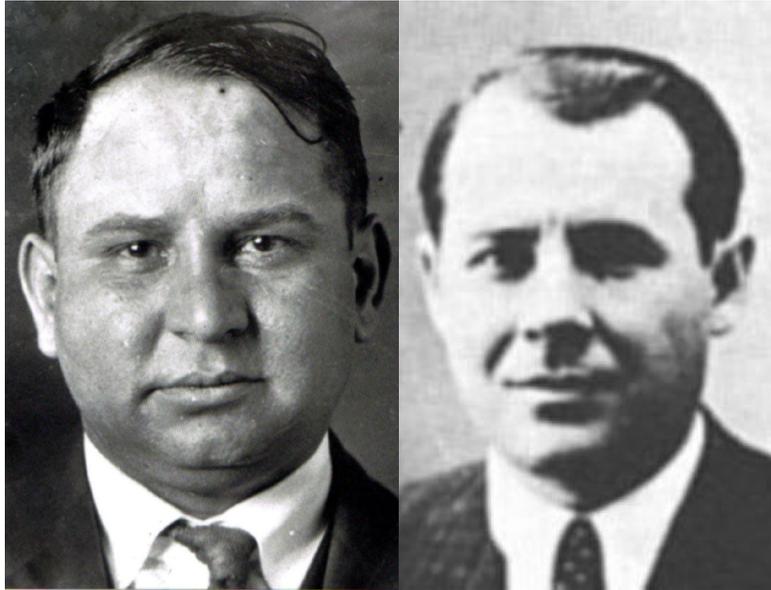
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Introduction

“If I betray my friends and our family, I and my soul will burn in hell like this saint.”

January 7th, 1930. For seven months, tensions between the Masseria and Maranzano factions of the New York Mafia have been boiling. Hijackings of the other side’s liquor trucks were commonplace, leading to millions of dollars lost in



damaged goods and placing the very safety of the Mafia at risk from police investigations. Both sides had been bringing in manpower and weaponry from across the nation, and war seemed imminent. New York was fertile for the most destructive conflict in its history since the Draft Riots.

On the morning of the 7th, a Castellammarese truck made its way to the mouth of the Hudson, awaiting a tramp ship delivery to the Pier 24 of the New York Harbour. After conducting the transaction under cover of fog and darkness, the truck and its crew made their way to Brooklyn, where they were expected to drop it off at a local grocery shop. The shipment would then be taken to a hidden warehouse, whose location was known to a select few, to then be parceled out to Castellammarese soldiers and their families. Of course, none of the truck’s crew knew all of this, and, as they were crossing the Brooklyn Bridge, one surreptitiously pried



open a container to reveal a set of pristine Nero d'Avola Sicilian wine. Chuckling to each other, the crew took a bottle out and passed it around, each taking a swig.

After turning onto Chambers Street, the truck was abruptly halted by a red light, and one of the crew members stuck his head out of a window to light his cigarette. Immediately, a shot rang through the still morning air, and his lifeless corpse fell back into his seat, a bullet hole clean through his forehead. The other crew members whipped out their pistols and started to return fire to the terrace of a building. Smoke and sparks flew, until five bodies lay scattered across the street, and two more on the roof. By the time the police had arrived, word had gotten to both the Masseria and Maranzano camps: this was an act of war.



Background Information

“Tutti colpevoli, nessuno colpevole,”

‘If everyone is guilty, no one is guilty.’

Old World

The term “Mafia” stems from the *mafie*, small private armies hired by Sicilian landlords to protect their property throughout the 19th century.¹ These armies formed loose organizations and became so powerful that by the 1870’s, they turned against the landlords and extorted protection money from them. They called themselves the Palermo Mafia and were a motley crew of revolutionaries and bandits that spread throughout Sicily.² Leopoldo Franchetti, a Tuscan aristocrat, travelled to Sicily to study the instability of the island, and noted how members of all classes belonged to the Mafia and how their main goal seemed to be limiting access to key resources under a government which could not control their fair distribution.³ For instance, a society of millers under the protection of a *Mafioso* was able to artificially raise their prices while the Mafia acted as an enforcer of these prices and made sure none of the millers produced more than the agreed-upon quota. Surviving due to their strict code of justice and oath of silence against legal authorities, known as *omertà*, various Mafia families in Sicily organized themselves into a loose confederation and controlled much of the economic and oftentimes political activity on the island. The Sicilian Mafia in Italy shared influence with two other major organized crime groups: the Camorra of Campania and the ‘Ndrangheta of Calabria.⁴ These sects had all organized themselves into various “cosche,” or family structures, that participated in illegal activities from extortion to money laundering.



New World Pre-1930

The first Sicilian Mafia emigrant to the United States was believed to be Giuseppe Esposito, a prominent *Mafioso* who emigrated to New York City in November 1878.⁵ Wanted for the murder of the chancellor and vice chancellor of Palermo, as well as 11 wealthy landowners, Esposito ended up setting up shop in New Orleans. Throughout the 1890s, Sicilian Mafia families were organized in various cities such as San Francisco, Chicago, and New York.⁶ Giuseppe Morello is often credited as the founder of the Sicilian-American Mafia in New York and firmly established the Mafia in Manhattan by 1916.⁷ Interestingly, the famed Don Vito Casio Ferro was a prominent member of the Morello family before his ill-fated return to Italy in 1904. The Mafia soon came into conflict with the Brooklyn-based Camorra. Under Don Pelligrino Morano, the Camorra sought to expand into Manhattan, resulting in the shocking public murder of Morello by a Camorra execution squad in 1916.⁸ Joe Masseria, a *capo* under Morello, was released from prison in this same year and became a powerful ally, eventually helping to defeat the Cammorristas and wresting control of the organization from another Morello captain in 1922.⁹ Many former Cammorristas joined the Morello family, which rapidly became the largest and most influential of the early New York crime families.

Immigration + Increased Power of the Mafia

The period between 1880 and 1900 saw the Italian American immigrant population of New York City rise from just over 12,000 to 145,000 individuals.¹⁰ By the time the First World War erupted, this number had risen to 370,000.¹¹ These immigrants settled in the tenements of New York's Lower East Side, living on different streets depending on where they had come from



in Italy, so that communities were originally extremely ethnically segregated.¹² The vast majority of these immigrants (around 80%) originated from Southern Italy, considered to be a hotbed of organized crime. Indeed, many *Mafiosi* fled to the United States during this period of mass Italian immigration for multiple reasons. Prominent among these, especially in the late 19th and very early 20th centuries, was fleeing from Italian law enforcement. For example, Joe Masseria came to the U.S. in 1903 from Sicily, fleeing a murder charge.¹³ With the rise to power in 1922 of Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, more and more *Mafiosi* fled Italy in the ensuing anti-Mafia crackdown.¹⁴ This occurred after a slight towards Mussolini by a high-ranking crime boss and was masterminded by Cesare Mori. An ardent Fascist, as Prefect of Palermo, he had jurisdiction over the Mafia hotbed of Sicily and went to work eradicating its presence through torture and show trials.¹⁵ As a result, an estimated 500-1,000 Mafia members were smuggled to Marseilles, then New York, through what is known as the Mussolini Shuttle.¹⁶ Although the powerful Don Vito Casio Ferro masterminded this route, he himself was imprisoned by the Fascists in 1929 and died in prison, thus ending the Fascist crusade against the Mafia. Ironically, it was *Il Duce* himself who was arguably responsible for the massive growth of the Italian-American Mafia in the 1920's.

It is important to note that Italian Americans were only one of several ethnic groups that immigrated to the United States, and especially New York City, during this period. Irish immigrants arrived in New York in the 1840s as a result of the potato famine, and Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe followed in the 1880s.¹⁷ Jewish, Italian, and Irish mobs were all active during Prohibition and beyond. Particularly powerful was the Jewish Bugs and Meyer Mob, founded in 1921 headed by Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky, friends of Charles Luciano.¹⁸



This group was focused on murder-for-hire and made substantial profits. The question of whom to do business with became a subject of dispute, especially in Italian criminal factions.

Prohibition + Crime in New York City

Prohibition, enforced by the Volstead Act, prevented the manufacture, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages, and was in effect from 1920 until 1933, when it was repealed by the passage of the Twenty-First Amendment.¹⁹ Progressive-era reformers, especially women, of the late 19th and early 20th centuries pushed for Prohibition, believing that alcohol damaged the moral fabric of America and caused domestic violence.²⁰ Many European immigrants to the United States saw this as an attack on their culture, as social drinking was popular, especially in German and Irish communities.²¹ This ban proved futile as Americans found their way around it and mobsters found ways to profit off of it, turning illegal alcohol into an industry worth an estimated \$2 billion a year. It is estimated that by 1925, there were as many as 100,000 speakeasies, or illegal bars, in New York City alone, with alcohol supplied by gangsters known as bootleggers. Particularly prominent among New York bootleggers was the Broadway Mob, headed by Joe Adonis.²³

As a close associate of Luciano and his friend Frank Costello, Adonis was able to reach a deal with the Bugs and Meyer Mob: Siegel and Meyer's men would protect his convoys of illegal liquor in exchange for partnership in the "business". The high-quality alcohol they offered made the Broadway Mob the foremost bootlegging outfit in New York, selling to high-end nightclubs in Manhattan, such as the Silver Slipper and Jack and Charlie's 21 Club.



The reforms of the Progressive movement also inadvertently aided the Mafia in their extortion efforts, prostitution, and gambling rings. By 1900, there were more than 250 brothels in the particularly seedy “Satan’s Circle” area of the West Twenties streets, and over a thousand gambling dens in Manhattan.²³ These illegal establishments were protected by corrupt police officers and the political machines of the day. Especially prominent was Tammany Hall, which provided services to poor immigrant families in exchange for votes. Tammany “ward leaders” assigned to specific neighborhoods recommended potential police recruits directly to commissioners, who had a higher chance of being hired. New immigrants, including Italians, could serve as “enforcers” for the machine’s voting operations, but the economic extortion was primarily done by the political-police alliance. Officers extracted protection money from legal and illegal enterprises alike and harassed striking workers to help employers maximize profits. Even though investigations in 1894 managed to sever the ties between the police and political machines, police still abused their power through graft.

However, by 1910, reforms spearheaded by Mayor William Jay Gaynor ended, among other practices, arbitrary arrests without warrant and introduced more protections for striking workers.²⁴ The death of extreme police involvement in racketeering created a power vacuum for organized crime.

Although Italians and Italian-Americans had been involved in some organized criminal activity prior to 1910 such as horse thievery and counterfeiting, they were not able to reach the level of power they had back in Sicily until after these reforms took place.²⁵ The Mafia then became able to choose to sanction prostitution and gambling rings, a controversial decision among mafiosi, and support either bosses or workers in labor disputes with their violent



services.²⁶ The Great Depression also weakened the construction sector and left an opening for the Mafia to control striking workers and construction projects.²⁷

Growing Tensions

As the Mafia became more powerful, it also became more fractured. Even although Masseria is considered the most powerful gangster in New York City by the 1920's, newcomer Maranzano was beginning to encroach on this title.²⁸ By 1928, Maranzano had gathered many gangsters who also hailed from his hometown of Castellammare del Golfo (Castle by the Sea) and was then able to spread rumors that Masseria hated all Castellammarese.²⁹ Maranzano's followers had spread themselves throughout Brooklyn, sparking Masseria's fears of a territorial encroachment.

For their part, younger members of the Mafia including Costello, Luciano, and Vito Genovese, among many other infamous figures, resent Masseria and Maranzano's old-world ways. This younger generation, who often started their criminal careers in America, call themselves the Young Turks (no racial connotation) and watch as Jewish and Irish mobsters get rich while they are engaged in ethnic wars against other Europeans and even Neopolitans.³⁰

They want to work with the Jewish and Irish gangs, and grow tired of the rhetoric of "honor" and "tradition" that the old-country leaders engage in, believing it to be an obstacle to profits. These traditional bosses, called the Mustache Petes, distrust non-Sicilians and believe in an old-world deference to the boss as opposed to more equitable structures of power.³¹ A multilayered, complex conflict with simmering tensions just underneath the surface is about to boil over.



Key Issues:

“There’s no chance you’ll get killed. We only kill each other.”

A Conflict of Eras

While tensions are rising, Mob carnage is immense, and naturally brings unwanted notoriety to the *Borgata** gangs. Regular shootouts leave cadavers and wounded men sprawled on crowded streets in broad daylight. Even worse, the war compels the police to launch investigations that could easily disrupt the smooth flow of wealth into Mafia pockets.³²

Younger members of the Mafia, born in America and speaking English as their first language, are now poised to inherit the racketeering empire of their fathers. They look to pursue monetary gain and political sway. These ‘Young Turks’ became increasingly disillusioned with the archaic, erratic, and transparent methods of the “Mustache Petes.”³³

In a time of dynamic change, various issues become increasingly pertinent to the very survival of the Mafia in the New World. For some, these issues present an opportunity to capitalize upon and create welcome change. For others, traditions take priority over all else, and breaking with them represents a betrayal of the core values of *La Cosa Nostra*.

Alliances

Prior to Prohibition, gangs of various ethnicities operated within clearly demarcated boundaries and rarely interacted with each other: the Italians in East Harlem and Williamsburg, the Jewish on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and the Irish on the West Side.³⁴



During Prohibition, most of these gangs began to concentrate on bootlegging, and naturally, turf disputes arose and became commonplace.³⁵ While widespread conflict never occurred, the efficiency of smuggling fell, as rival gangs would attack and destroy shipments.

The older Mafia generation is wary of foreigners and veto any attempts at alliances and even ceasefires, which they view as betraying the Mafioso spirit. The lower echelons of the Italian Mob, however, regularly collaborate with Jewish and Irish gangs to evade police detection and oftentimes receive shipments together from British ships in international waters.³⁶ The Young Turks look to increase efficiency and reduce unnecessary monetary and human losses by establishing temporary or even permanent alliances with rival Jewish and Irish gangs.

Expansion

Prohibition never had a stronghold on the consumption of alcohol by Americans across the nation.³⁷ As a result of this widespread demand, gangs were able to capitalize on a market that did not have any legal vendors and began to reap massive profits.

However, rumour has it that the repeal of Prohibition with a constitutional amendment is in the works, as the federal government realized that a legally accessible market would make it easier to regulate alcohol.³⁸ As the unravelling of the carefully structured black market looks imminent, various gangs begin to look into other markets to expand into.

The Young Turks look to expand into areas such as labour racketeering, gambling, prostitution and drugs.³⁹ However, the older generation is resistant to such change for two main reasons. Firstly, a foray into these sectors would require temporary, if not permanent, alliances with the Irish and Jewish gangs that wielded enormous political influence across the nation. As



mentioned above, their natural distrust of rival gangs and their adherence to traditional Mafia practices would have to be put aside for such expansion to occur. Secondly, core Cosa Nostra values held that certain actions were morally impermissible for Mafia members to sanction.⁴⁰ Narcotics trafficking, for example, had long been eschewed despite the trade's high profits and relatively low risk, due to its perceived immorality. This conflict between traditional and progressive views of Mob influence leads to internal strife within both the Maranzano and Masseria factions.

Structure

Conflict between the factions was inevitable: Masseria and Maranzano both controlled vast swaths of the Mob in the city and had influence that reached into neighbouring states across the Eastern Seaboard. It would also undoubtedly change the political landscape of the city, and could be the death or a rebirth of the Mafia. Whichever side prevailed would be able to restructure the Cosa Nostra hierarchy and have immense sway over the actions of the Mob from top to bottom.

More important than the conflict itself, however, is the result of such a reorganization. There are endless possibilities to how the Cosa Nostra could be structured. For war on such a large scale to never occur again, there have to be various precautions in place. Two equally strong factions can never be allowed to form, and singular individuals must be prevented from taking positions of supreme power.

Moreover, the resulting structure also has to best fit the ideological direction that the Mafia decides to take. A strongly defined hierarchical structure might not be best suited for



expansion into diverse and previously unexplored sectors in areas outside of the New York heartland. Additionally, the extent of the alliances that can potentially be developed with Irish and Jewish gangs will also determine who occupies positions of leadership, and how much power those individuals will wield. The fate of the largest American crime syndicate rests upon your shoulders: will it resist pressures from within and without?

Profiles in Crime

Joe Adonis

Although he claims to have been born in the United States, rumours abound that he was actually born near Naples and immigrated as a child. More aligned with the Young Turk faction rather than the Mustache Petes, Adonis is a longtime associate of Charles Luciano, to whom he is intensely loyal, Vito Genovese, and Albert Anastasia. With Lucianio and Luciano's ally Frank Costello advising him, Adonis heads the bootlegging Broadway Mob. This is so named because the organization is located near Broadway and uniquely, sells high-quality smuggled liquor from Europe at expensive prices to high-end outfits rather than diluting their alcohol or making it themselves. The Mob is firmly established by the mid-1920's and takes in around \$20 million a year. Although Adonis technically worked with Luciano under Masseria before he started the Broadway Mob, Masseria grew increasingly nervous of the money Adonis was making in the Mob. Additionally, by working with Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky of the Bugs and Meyer Mob for protection in exchange for co-leadership, Adonis is able to profit off of working with Jewish gangsters as opposed to fighting them. By 1928, Adonis had moved the center of his operations to Brooklyn and became the *de facto* boss of the borough after his boss Frankie Yale



was killed. Although fiercely loyal and clever, Adonis is extremely vain and took his name to tribute what he sees as his striking good looks.

Albert "The Mad Hatter" Anastasia

Anastasia immigrated to the U.S. in 1919 at the age of 17. Becoming active in the dock operations of Brooklyn, Anastasia had by the 1920's risen to a position of authority in the longshoreman's union, controlling six local union chapters. It was here where he first displayed his unrestrained brutality and penchant for murder, by killing a fellow longshoreman in 1921 which earned him a 18-month stint on Sing Sing's death row. Walking free after the witnesses went missing, Anastasia cemented his kill-crazy reputation with a later murder charge in 1928, which he was never convicted of. At this time he had become a friend of Frank Costello and especially devoted to Charles Luciano, likely through his work as a Broadway Mob enforcer. He declares his allegiance to Masseria but his overwhelming loyalty goes to Luciano, due to his faith in the latter's money making abilities. Indeed, as a Young Turk his main goal is to make money and he seemingly cares little for old-world codes of honor, although he hates informers. His brutality and knack for witness intimidation knows no bounds.

Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno

Bonanno was born in the town of Castellammare del Golfo and immigrated to the States as a child, before his family returned to Italy. Bonanno, in addition to learning the Mafia ways as a student in his birthplace, was a fierce anti-Fascist, and was forced to leave Palermo after Mussolini's rise to power. Stowing away on a Florida-bound fishing boat in 1925, Bonanno moved up to Williamsburg, New York, and got involved in bootlegging activities as an enforcer



to ensure Brooklyn speakeasies bought their whiskey from his associates. He was also able to take unclaimed territories in Brooklyn for Italian use. Once Salvatore Maranzano arrived in New York in 1927 and took control over the Castellammarese mafiosi, he took a liking to Bonanno's dependability and maneuvering and took him under his wing, making him a top enforcer. Bonanno, unlike his contemporaries, is not showy with his money and is rarely seen drinking and spending time at public nightclubs. He is close friends and allies with Joe Profaci. Although Bonanno is not a Mustache Pete and agrees with the Young Turks on the need to modernize, he is considered to be quite traditional and believes wealth to be a byproduct of power.

Vincent "Mad Dog" Coll

Born in poverty in Ireland, Vincent Coll immigrated to the States with his family and settled in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City. After being orphaned and expelled from various reformatories, he joined an Irish gang known as the Gophers lead by Owney Madden. By the late 1920s he had upgraded to protecting Dutch Schultz's Bronx beer delivery trucks alongside his brother, making \$150 a week apiece. However, Coll soon realized that he would make more money running his own operation. He and his brother managed to get some of Schultz's gangsters on his side, but one, Vincent Barelli (spelled Borello in some accounts), refused. Coll promptly murdered him and Barelli's girlfriend Mary Smith in 1927. Coll was only 19 when he committed the murders and already was building up a reputation for viciousness and sadism feared by even Dutch Schultz and his former leader Owney Madden. In 1929, he cemented his out-of-control reputation by robbing a dairy truck without the permission of Schultz. By January 1930, Coll has formed his own gang, consisting of 18 members who resented the low salaries they received as a member of Schultz's gang. Although Schultz fears



his viciousness, Coll is up against a cunning enemy with a lot of money, power, smarts, and influence in law enforcement. Coll has also recently become romantically involved with Charlotte “Lottie” Kriesberger, a woman as streetwise and sadistic as he. He cares little for strict syndicates of organized crime, he wants money and doesn’t care which pocket it comes from.

Frank Costello

Hailing from the Calabria region of Italy, Costello arrived in New York City as a child and grew up in East Harlem, eventually controlling an Italian street gang known as the 104th Street Gang. He was arrested numerous times for assault and robbery charges before being jailed in 1919. Upon release, he vowed he would never use violence to make money and instead use his brain. To this day, he does not carry a gun to honor that promise. Costello joined the Morello gang along with Lucky Luciano and through him, met Vito Genovese, Bugsy Siegel, and Meyer Lansky. They worked together, bootlegging under billionaire Arnold Rothstein and getting rich, bribing judges to keep their silence. Costello especially was known for befriending judges and politicians, especially prominent members of the Tammany Hall political machine. With his elegance and diplomatic ways, Costello began to be known as the Prime Minister of the Underworld. Costello hosted the cross-ethnic 1929 Atlantic City Conference which sought to foster cooperation between different mob outfits across the nation. Pointedly, he did not invite Masseria and Maranzano. As a Young Turk, he believes that their old-world ways and ethnic prejudices, as well as Masseria's dislike of fraternizing with politicians, hamper profits.



Thomas “Tommy” Gagliano

Tommy Gagliano was born in Sicily sometime in 1884 and came to the United States in 1905. Initially he worked in a feed store, but by 1929 he had started the United Lathing Company, hiring the head of a local Lather’s Union to help. While still involved with his lathing business, he joined Tom Reina’s criminal organization in the Bronx, rising to underboss. The gang’s criminal activity was focused on racketeering and establishing control of the entire New York City ice industry. While in the gang, he became allied with another powerful member: Tommy Lucchese. Reina is an ally of Joe Masseria, and as such Gagliano, Lucchese, and Luciano have all met. Gagliano prefers to keep a low profile and attracts very little attention from the press. The conspicuously violent ways of the Mustache Petes annoy and worry him, as his goal is to maximize profits and minimize jail time. His United Lathing Company has provided him with ample profits, estimating over \$150 thousand. As underboss to Reina, he fully expects to be made the boss upon Reina’s death or retirement.

Carlo Gambino

Gambino illegally immigrated to the U.S. in 1921, much later than many of his counterparts. That being said he had already made his name as a teenage hitman and “made man” in the Sicilian Mafia before his arrival. He went to work with his cousins, who were employed by former Morello Family member Salvatore D’Aquila. After D’Aquila was murdered in 1928 on the orders of Joe Masseria, Gambino switched his allegiance over to Masseria. By doing so he was able to make the acquaintance of many of the “Young Turks”. Gambino is short and wears a perpetual smile to give him a disarming appearance. Although he acts somewhat servile and cowardly, preferring to turn the other cheek rather than start conflicts, this may very well be



simply a role he enjoys playing. Like Gagliano, he prefers to keep a low profile and, although he has not achieved the rank of boss or underboss yet, has all of the cunning required to come out on top.

Vito Genovese

Immigrating from a Neopolitan village to New York City in 1913, Genovese started his criminal career at age 15 with petty thievery and running errands for Mafia members. He was locked up four years later on an illegal firearm possession charge. It was also around this time that he befriended Charles Luciano, becoming his muscle and trusted second-in-command. They were both recruited as hitmen by Masseria in 1920. Along with Luciano, Meyer Lansky, and Bugsy Siegel, he participated in Arnold Rothstein's bootlegging operation and saw firsthand the money that could be made working with criminals of other ethnicities. Although he, like Albert Anastasia, is ruthless and vicious, he prefers to live a quiet life. Moreover, Genovese possesses the indispensable ability to covertly plot the downfall of his enemies, as well as to outright kill them. He strongly supports the Mafia's ventures into narcotics and trafficking, considering it an area with immense profits, but this was often opposed by members of both the older and younger generations for being irresponsible.

Meyer Lansky

Born Maier Suchowljansky, Meyer Lansky was a Polish Jew from Grudno. While many speak of "our thing" which excludes all but Italians, never did any top Mafiosi exclude Meyer Lansky from anything, ever. Along with Bugsy Siegel, Lansky organized the Bugs and Meyer Gang, the most violent outfit on the East Coast, which worked alternately as liquor hijackers and protectors



for bootleggers willing to meet exorbitant prices. Under the guidance of the late Arnold Rothstein, Lansky and Lucky Luciano dreamt of creating an independent national crime syndicate since their early twenties, which they realized at the Atlantic City Conference in 1929. Lansky believed in the need for strict enforcement of organized crime, primarily through an independent body. Despite being one of the new generation, Lansky believes in keeping some of the Mustache Petes' old trappings, even for just the appearance of maintaining tradition. He plays a crucial role in the linking of Jewish and Italian mobsters through his friendship with Luciano. Never the most visible of figures, Lansky has no intention of creating a dynasty, and keeps his wife and children far away from the criminal underworld.

Tommy Lucchese

Thomas Lucchese arrived in New York from the Sicilian homeland in 1911, and immediately plunged into a life of crime. After losing a finger in an accident, he picked up the nickname "Three-Finger Brown" after the famed pitcher Mordecai Brown. Lucchese picked up a criminal record early on, with arrests for grand larceny, car theft, homicide and bootlegging, but was only ever convicted once. After joining Joe Masseria's gang, Lucchese became one of the most trusted killers and bodyguards, rising up to become Lucky Luciano's right-hand man. Unusually, however, Lucchese had a level of autonomy to operate on his own, a sign of the immense trust that he maintained with Luciano and Masseria. Moreover, Lucchese, known for his tight upper lip and cool head began to develop connections with many influential figures in the upperworld – financiers, judges, prosecutors, members of Congress – under the guise of a respectable businessman. As a part of the newer generation, Lucchese is looking to expand into more diverse sectors and maximize profits, attempting to use his connections and influence. Similar to



Luciano, Lucchese hopes that he will be able to “legitimize” his portion of the gang and begin turning large profits in mainstream industries.

Charles “Lucky” Luciano

At the age of 10, Charles Luciano logged his first arrest, for shoplifting, and never looked back. Childhood friends with Meyer Lansky, Luciano was one of the most notorious leaders of the Five Points Gang and later joined the Bugs and Meyer Gang as a liquor racketeering powerhouse. Becoming close with Frank Costello, Luciano pioneered friendships with other ethnic gangsters, such as Dutch Schultz and Phil Kastel. Through his growing connections in the underworld, Luciano realized that protection from city officials and the police was the most important ingredient in the criminal setup. Luciano came to believe that the stubborn old generation was the greatest obstacle to immense success, and that they had to be eliminated. By the late 1920s, Luciano had become the top aide and right-hand man in Joe Masseria’s family, the largest in New York. While loyal to and fully immersed in La Cosa Nostra, Luciano maintains separate ties with Lansky and the Jewish Mob. Despite his high position, he has nothing but contempt for Masseria’s Old World habits and customs that stressed “honour” and “respect” and disgust for all non-Sicilians. According to Luciano, Masseria’s prejudices against other gangs. Sicilian and non-Sicilian, are a serious obstacle to making real profits.

Vincent “The Executioner” Mangano

Arriving in New York in 1922, Vincent Mangano was already in his early thirties when he joined the American Mafia. As a part of the Masseria-aligned Al Mineo Family, Mangano made his name as a brutal and bloody murderer, and quickly rose through the ranks. The much younger



Luciano and Mangano became close allies and good friends, and each independently controlled large portions of Masseria's gang. He made his centre of operations the Brooklyn waterfront, where he set up various rackets, for both liquor and labour. Being closer in age to most of the Mustache Petes, Mangano had also grown up in the Sicilian homeland, where he gained serious respect and faith in the ideals of a clear hierarchy, honour and respect, and Sicilian supremacy. Unlike the older generation, however, he also believes in the maximization of profits, no matter the cost. Thus, he remains open to prostitution, drug trafficking and gambling. This fusion of progressive and traditional views allows him to remain amenable to both the older and younger generation, and neither view him as a significant obstacle to their respective goals.

Salvatore Maranzano

The epitome of an old-line Mafioso, Salvatore Maranzano held tight to the crime society's traditions of honour and respect and continued the blood feuds of generations past. Sent by the most powerful Mafia leader in Sicily, Don Vito Cascio Ferro, he arrived in New York to consolidate all American crime families under one leadership. Surrounding himself with gangsters from his Sicilian hometown of Castellammare del Golfo, he attracted so many followers that he posed a significant threat to the previously undisputed Mafia boss of New York, Joe Masseria. Maranzano made arrangements for a proxy war against Masseria, hijacking his liquor shipments and causing chaos in his racketeering chains. A cunning adversary, Maranzano was college educated and originally a candidate for priesthood and bore a striking contrast to Joe "the Glutton" Masseria. Indeed, he intended to overthrow Masseria by exploiting the idea that he hated all Castellammarese, stoking blood feud tensions that had previously lay dormant. Regardless of his concept of ideals, however, Maranzano has modern ideas about



crime, and is open for Mafia expansion into various, previously unexplored areas. In this vein, he has tried to lure Luciano away from the Masseria camp to utilize his connections in the Jewish and Irish Mob.

Giuseppe Masseria

Joe “the Boss” Masseria was the undisputed boss of the New York Mafia by the mid-1920s, a tribute to treachery, good luck, and a willingness, if not an eagerness, to kill. Having fled a murder charge in Sicily, Masseria arrived in New York in 1903, being arrested in a few years for extortion and burglary. Becoming a part of the notorious Morello gang, Masseria made his name in the city’s first important crime family. Instead of rising through the ranks, he launched an armed uprising against the Morello leadership, and after a short but bloody conflict, became the undisputed leader of New York’s largest family. At that time, his only issue was Lucky Luciano, his lieutenant, who, despite being an extremely valuable crime organizer, was a headstrong upstart and close with Lansky and Siegel, Jewish gangsters. In addition, he held Frank Costello, another lieutenant, in contempt for his dealings with politicians and officers, because his “boys should never sleep with them” lest they become corrupted. In the face of the Maranzano threat, Masseria does not worry, for he has far more powerful rivals to deal with, including his old foe, Peter Morello. Moreover, he has brilliant youngsters, led by Luciano and including Adonis, Costello, Anastasia and Gambino. Despite his tenuous confidence in their loyalty, he knows that they hate Maranzano as much as they dislike him.



Joseph Profaci

Arriving in America in 1921, Joseph Profaci originally settled in Chicago, where he opened a grocery store and bakery. When that venture was unsuccessful, he moved to Brooklyn and established an olive oil import business, where at some point he became involved with local gangs. After the 1928 murder of Salvatore D'Aquila, prominent Brooklyn boss, Profaci was proclaimed his successor at a conference in Cleveland, attended by bosses from Chicago, New York and Florida. Some speculate that Profaci received this position despite his relative lack of experience in the criminal underworld due to his family's strength in the Mafia in Sicily. Whatever the case, Profaci was able to use his contacts in the olive oil industry to begin labour racketeering. Profaci controls narcotics, prostitution and loansharking in Brooklyn, and is progressive when it comes to Mafia industries. However, Profaci is an extreme traditionalist, and demands regular tribute from everyone involved in his gang and those he protects, leading to significant hate among the community. He runs his gang in the conservative Sicilian fashion, paying particular attention to the hierarchy, and the position of himself in the top post.

Dutch Schultz

Dutch Schultz, born Arthur Flegenheimer in the Bronx, was one of the early proteges of Arnold Rothstein, along with Luciano and Lansky. Quickly taking control of the beer trade, Schultz also seized the penny ante market with unrelenting violence and ruthlessness and turned it into a multimillion-dollar industry. Indeed, Schultz was said to have a keener sense for potential revenue than even Luciano and Lansky themselves. His gangsters neither liked nor respected him, but he ruled with the iron fist of fear: never did a single of his underlings ask for a raise, and never did one dare to defect, for it was certain that they would be exterminated. Schultz was



never the typical, suave and smooth gangster: he preferred to let his weapons do the talking for him. Schultz is currently engaged in conflict with one of his previous lieutenants, Vincent Coll. Many aspire to take over Schultz's lucrative beer and policy rackets in the Bronx, but he has a ironclad grip on them for the time being.

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