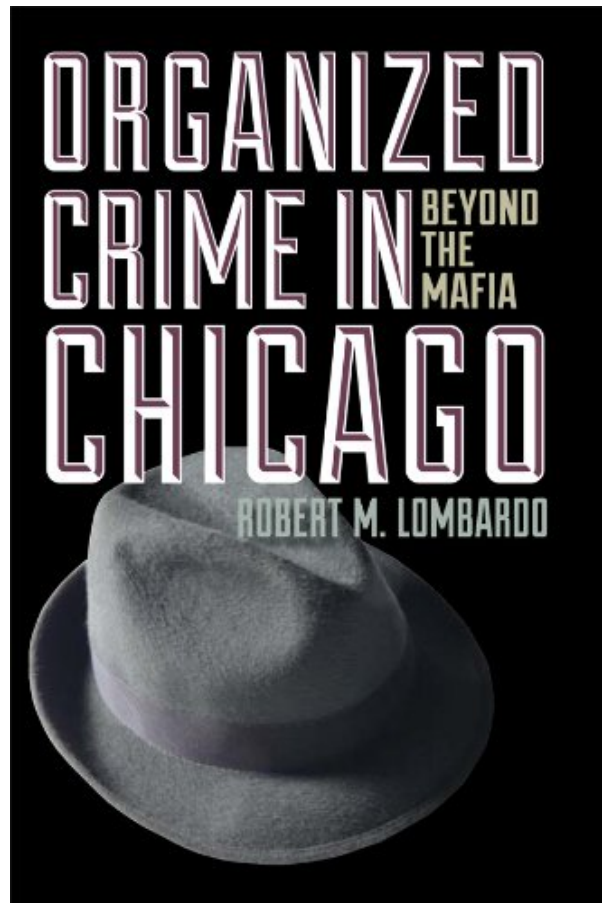
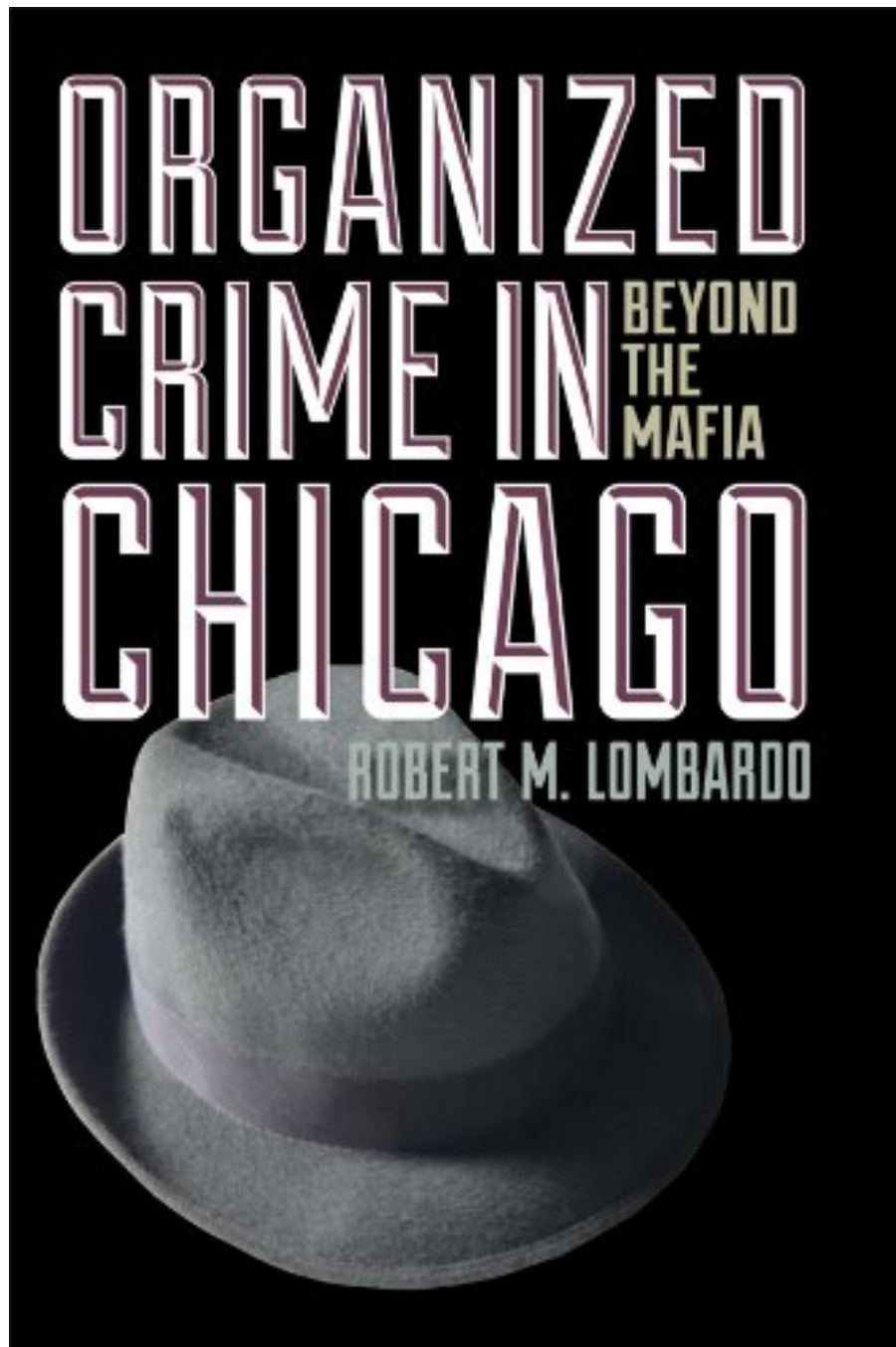


ORGANIZED CRIME IN CHICAGO: BEYOND THE MAFIA BY ROBERT M. LOMBARDO



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Review

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Historical Review

About the Author

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This book provides a comprehensive sociological explanation for the emergence and continuation of organized crime in Chicago. Tracing the roots of political corruption that afforded protection to gambling, prostitution, and other vice activity in Chicago and other large American cities, Robert M. Lombardo challenges the dominant belief that organized crime in America descended directly from the Sicilian Mafia. According to this widespread "alien conspiracy" theory, organized crime evolved in a linear fashion beginning with the Mafia in Sicily, emerging in the form of the Black Hand in America's immigrant colonies, and culminating in the development of the Cosa Nostra in America's urban centers.

Looking beyond this Mafia paradigm, this volume argues that the development of organized crime in Chicago and other large American cities was rooted in the social structure of American society. Specifically, Lombardo ties organized crime to the emergence of machine politics in America's urban centers. From nineteenth-century vice syndicates to the modern-day Outfit, Chicago's criminal underworld could not have existed without the blessing of those who controlled municipal, county, and state government. These practices were not imported from Sicily, Lombardo contends, but were bred in the socially disorganized slums of America where elected officials routinely franchised vice and crime in exchange for money and votes. This book also traces the history of the African-American community's participation in traditional organized crime in Chicago and offers new perspectives on the organizational structure of the Chicago Outfit, the traditional organized crime group in Chicago.

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Badly Needed Scholarly Approach

By JamesFM

This book is an objective accounting of organized crime in Chicago from a historical and sociological perspective. You won't find fanciful stories and romanticized tales here. Just facts supported by solid research, along with the author's views on the true origins of organized crime in Chicago, namely, a corrupt political system willing to support and protect anybody that provided money and votes. My father lived and worked in this cesspool his whole life, and understanding just how bad it was has helped me understand him a little better. Trying to stay above it all was like swimming against the tide. Thanks Professor Lombardo for filling a huge gap in the literature.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

AWESOME READ!!!

By Amazon Customer

Great book, this is a researched, well informed book. The author looks at the subject as if it was a college class study. And it raises a valid theory that Italians didnt bring OC to Chicago, nor America for that matter. The black Policy Kings are mentioned in the book as well, such as Theodore "Teddy" Roe, who was half Italian himself, yet never backed down from Giancana & The Outfit, whom were trying to take over his policy racket. Again, this book takes the educational approach. If youre merely interested in the "we killed this guy, garroted this guy and buried him on an indian reserve. Oh, and we banged so many broads, youse wouldnt believe it" Henry Hill, Jimmy The Weasel type books, this one isnt for you.

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