

TECHMUN VIII

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BLOOD IS A BIG EXPENSE

NATIONAL CRIME SYNDICATE, 1946



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Letter From The CD

Greetings Delegates,

My name is Nate Wicker and I am a second year Mathematics/Economics major at Georgia Tech. In Summer of 2023 I took a class at the Georgia Governor's Honors Program called "Evil in Film and Literature" in which I first watched Godfather 1 and 2. Examining these films and the characters present in them changed the way I have viewed all forms of media since. Furthermore, this class also made me fall in love with representations of the American mafia in pop culture as a whole. Characters like Michael Corleone or Tony Soprano allow writers to create compelling, relatable figures that the audience can see as honorable or relatable while still being the overseers of horrible atrocities.

This fascination with the American mafia led me to proposing a mafia committee, which eventually led to the creation of Blood Is A Big Expense: National Crime Syndicate, 1946. As you read this guide, I hope you remember that while the mafia is often glorified in the public view, it is still run on violent and exploitative crimes like murder, prostitution, gambling, and loan-sharking. These crimes take advantage of innocent people. The organization of the mafia as a whole also provides for violence on a larger scale with vicious disputes over control of these industries. I hope being a part of this committee helps you understand why and how humans are capable of doing these horrible things.

That being said, delegates are heavily encouraged to reread TECHMUN's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statements before preparing for and attending the conference. As Crisis Director I have worked with our policy team to create an additional statement for this committee regarding what is and is not allowed. We will not permit any violations of any of these rules. It is entirely possible DEI concerns come up that are not covered by these rules. If these occur, please report them as soon as possible so that we can take care of any issues as they arise.

As a final reminder, this is a historical committee. I expect notes and directives rooted in reality, even if they are absurd. Also no brain rot, please. That being said, I hope you have a great time as a delegate of the National Crime Syndicate!

Sincerely,

Nate Wicker

Disclaimer

Model United Nations provides an opportunity for delegates to engage diplomatically with topics of global importance and explore possibilities for conflict resolution in a meaningful way. Many of the topics at hand may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter. We ask delegates to be respectful and professional when engaging with their committee and communicating with fellow delegates and TechMUN Conference staff. The content warning below is meant to warn you of potentially controversial topics that are present in the content of this background guide, as well as content that may appear in other aspects of the committee (e.g. debate, speeches, directives), so that you can prepare yourself before reading this background guide and participating in the committee.

At TechMUN, we take equity violations very seriously and require delegates to fully comply with our equity guidelines. Failure to do so will result in an immediate disqualification from awards, and you may be asked to leave the conference. Please remain respectful in committee, and avoid overgeneralizations as well as take into account individual differences and contexts during your speeches. If you have any questions regarding our equity guidelines, we encourage you to review our extended conference policy located on our website and/or contact one of our staff members.

If, because of this committee's content warning, you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to our staff via email at techmunconference@gmail.com.

Due to the nature of this committee, the following topics contain specific guidelines on how to what extent delegates may address them in/outside of committee:

Prostitution

Discussion about prostitution is strictly prohibited from debate or being written in documents in this committee. Although it was a real industry that the National Crime Syndicate was heavily invested in, it should be ignored for the purposes of debate in this conference.

Antisemitic/Anti-Italian themes

In line with TechMUN's conference policy on conflicts, any language that perpetuates anti-semitic, anti-italian, or any other ethnocentric beliefs, stereotypes, hate, etc. is strictly prohibited.

Substances

Discussion about heroin and other drugs as a form of business, product, and trade is permitted in debate and committee documents. However, TechMUN asks that discussion remains sensitive on this topic. Advocacy for joining the heroin trade on the pretense of getting customers addicted or manipulation of individuals taking substances of similar nature is strictly prohibited.

Murder & Violence

For the purposes of this committee, conducting "hits", or sanctioned murders of mafia members, that have historically been used by the mafia to solve their issues will be permitted in debate and committee documents. For example, delegates are permitted to pass a directive with the clause "place a hit on Bugsy Siegel" if they believe it to be the best solution to that problem. Directives should specify the necessary details of the hit as well. However, delegates are instructed to avoid explicit, or unnecessarily gruesome descriptions of the hit. Additionally, discussion about torture as a part of a hit is prohibited from debate or committee documents in this committee.

History of American Mafia

Beginning and Prohibition

The American Mafia began in the late 19th century, with small Italian gangs forming in the impoverished areas of cities throughout the United States. In January of 1919, the 18th amendment was passed, leading to the Prohibition Era. This ban on the legal trade of alcohol would serve as the catalyst for these crime groups to organize and develop into the massive force that they currently are at the time of committee. At the same time, the rise of fascism in Italy caused many immigrants to come to America in search of a better life. Moving into major cities like New York and Chicago, poor Italians began joining the American mafia for a chance at success.

Starting in the 1920s, mafia operations in New York City were controlled by Giuseppe Masseria, a powerful man who had influence over many of the Sicilian crime groups. However, Salvatore Maranzano, a crime boss from Italy, came to New York City with the goal of weakening Masseria's power (Sifakis 56). Disputes between each boss' families and their associates quickly grew violent as they fought for control of New York City, starting the



Prohibition Era Bar

Castellammarese War. The war raged through the streets of the city, with members of both sides resorting to violence to disrupt the business of their rivals. Many of the younger mob members who now serve in the National Crime Syndicate worked with Charles "Lucky" Luciano, a powerful, young figure in the Masseria family, to use the war as an opportunity to disrupt the old system and create a new system that served them. As the situation for Masseria worsened, Luciano and his ally Vito Genovese decided to betray him in exchange for an end to the war from Maranzano and positions in the new mafia system that would come to be.

Post Castellammarese War

Maranzano created a new system for the mafia to follow. Each family was controlled by a boss and had under him a consigliere and an underboss. Then, there were capos that led crews made of soldiers and other associates to do the actual criminal activities. Each city was controlled by one mafia family, except New York, which was split between the "Five Families". Above all of these families was Maranzano himself, who operated as the boss of all bosses. Luciano still did not trust Maranzano and quickly orchestrated Maranzano's and the rest of the old mafia leadership's deaths (Raab). In the system that followed, the solitary role of the "boss of all bosses" was removed and instead replaced by the National Crime Syndicate, an organization which acted as a parliamentary body staffed by heads of crime families. However, Luciano still held control over many of the families, despite not claiming the title for himself. The National Crime Syndicate group revolutionized the mafia by including cooperation with Jewish crime families- something that was unthought of during the rule of Masseria and Maranzano.

The Syndicate was founded in May 1929 at the Atlantic City Conference, before the Castellammarese War began, showing the eagerness of Luciano and his associates, primarily Genovese and powerful Jewish mobster Meyer Lansky, for their ideas of cooperation amongst families to be implemented. It was planned as a one time meeting with the intention of solving many of the problems the American mafia was currently facing.

The conference took place across several hotels in the resort town of Atlantic City, with the cover of celebrating the honeymoon of Lansky. It was



Charles "Lucky" Luciano

the first conference of its kind, with organized crime families from across America meeting in one place. Notably, bosses Maranzano and Masseria were not invited. The younger mafiosi saw them as being a part of the older generation and knew they wouldn't accept the cooperation between Italians and Jews at the conference. Issues discussed there were bootlegged liquor, gambling investments, and intergang violence in Chicago. Overall, the conference proved to be successful and the delegates were able to cooperate to solve all of these issues.

With the new system in place, power began to concentrate across various cities in the United States. The most powerful is undoubtedly New York City, being controlled by the "5 Families": Luciano, Bonanno, Profaci, Mangano, and Gagliano. With its large number of Italian American immigrants and massive port, New York continues to play an important role in smuggling operations, as well as virtually every other industry that falls under organized crime.

The second most powerful city is Chicago, controlled by the "Chicago Outfit". Like New York City, prohibition allowed the area's organized crime groups to flourish. However, it lacks the population and the ports to put it on par with New York. Another area of interest is Florida, mainly the cities of Miami and Tampa. Many areas across the south are seen as prime real estate for the powerful families in the North to expand to, but Florida has proven to be the most important. Due to its physical and cultural proximity to Cuba, the state has been key in smuggling to and from Havana. Other areas with some mafia control are Buffalo, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New Jersey, and Las Vegas. Families should look to areas in which they could expand their influence or that could be useful for the Syndicate as a whole.

During WWII, the American government worked in secret with the mafia led by Lucky Luciano to help defend the New York City waterfront from Axis attacks (Newark 288, 292). Sicilian mafia members aided the Allied invasion of Italy, as Mussolini was their common enemy. At the time, government officials were concerned about enemy infiltration and sabotage through the ports of the city. In exchange for providing intelligence to the Navy, Luciano's decades long sentence he was serving was commuted, and he was deported to Italy. Numerous other bosses formed powerful connections with US military officials to help train workers, protect ports, and serve in the army. Some, like Albert Anastasia, helped in order to lessen the sentence of Luciano, while others, like the Sicilian mafia, saw it as the best way to grab power in the chaos of World War II's aftermath. These partnerships and negotiations between the government and the mafia were kept secret from United States citizens.



Las Vegas Hotel

Las Vegas

The city of Las Vegas was founded in 1905 and has gradually become the center of gambling for the country. Construction began in 1931 on the Hoover Dam, drawing thousands of young men to work on the project. Seeing a business opportunity, the people of Las

Vegas set up various entertainment venues ranging from casinos to clubs to satisfy the needs caused by this massive demographic change. In the same year, the city legalized gambling to bring profits to locals interested in entering this industry.

At the time, it was hard for organized crime figures to make a break into the gambling industry as many of the casinos and plots that could be developed into entertainment venues were held by locals who refused to work with the criminals. However, in the Post-War era, mobsters poured money into local banks in order to conduct these deals and slowly gain control of gambling in the city. At the time of committee, Las Vegas is a “free city” for the mafia, meaning it has no official family and all families are welcome to expand there. While there is peace at the moment, it may not be maintained as families begin to control massive swaths of the city.

The first big push into organized crime controlled casinos in Las Vegas is the unfinished Flamingo hotel owned by Bugsy Siegel. Siegel is a mobster who moved out West, quickly becoming a big name in circles in Hollywood and Las Vegas. He, with the help of Jewish mobster and Syndicate member Meyer Lansky, convinced all of the families in New York City and Chicago to invest in a project to finish the hotel in the hopes that the gamblers it drew in would lead to massive profits (Chicago Tribune). However, due to poor management, the costs for the project only grew. With suspicions arising on the profitability of the hotel, the Syndicate must decide what to do with the project and with Siegel.



Bugsy Siegel

Drug Trade

At the time of committee, drug trade in the United States is not a massive industry. Before WWII, drugs mostly came in small amounts from the Golden Triangle drug network. The Golden Triangle refers to the area where poppies are grown in regions of southeast Asia and then used to create heroin. There are no formal agreements between the Syndicate and any smugglers in Asia, leading to a variety of issues like poor quality drugs and low supply at high prices. Fortunately, while Lucky Luciano was away in Italy, he made connections with both the Sicilian Mafia and the French Connection. Both of these groups import poppies, the key ingredient to heroin production, from places like Indochina and North Africa, and then process them in Europe. Both groups are eager to work with the Syndicate to expand their businesses into the United States by brokering a deal.

However, the Syndicate will need to decide if this expansion is truly worth it. While hard drugs like heroin could become the new biggest source of revenue for the Syndicate, they come with a host of issues. First off, a deal will need to be negotiated to get the heroin from Europe to America and then to drug users. Different families will need to delegate the tasks of controlling imports and distributions. The two main options for importation are through New York City or through Cuba and Florida. The former would require collaboration from the 5 families while the latter would require a better relationship with the new Cuban government.

Additionally, some bosses oppose the sale of hard drugs on a moral ground. They may see heroin as much more harmful for society than industries like gambling, which the mafia have historically been involved with. Drug trafficking charges lead to a lot more prison time than others that are common among mob members. Thus, there is the increased risk of "rats" - individuals who betray their code of secrecy in order to secure less jail time.

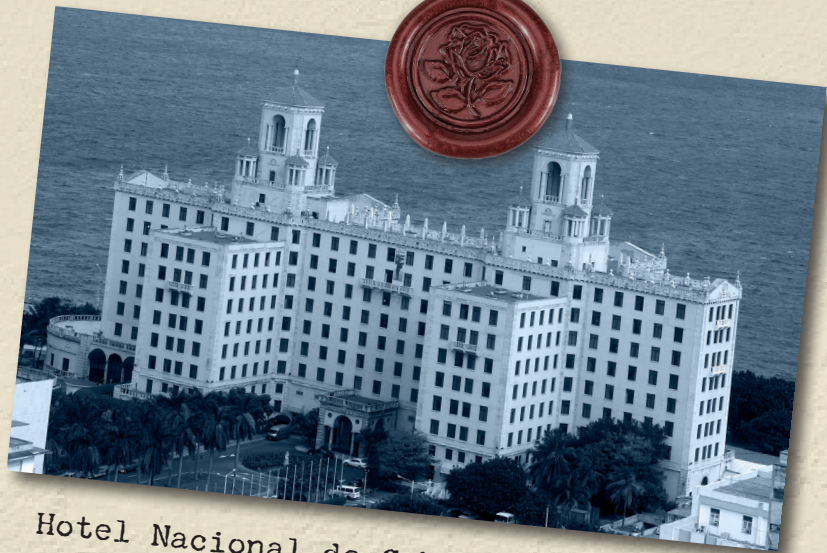
Current Situation

You look around as you enter the doors of the Hotel Nacional de Cuba. The glamorous hotel in the heart of Havana will serve as the location of negotiations over the coming weeks. Smooth music and the smell of cigar smoke floats through the air as you turn to greet another man entering the lobby. You, him, and many of the well dressed individuals lounging around are all members of the National Crime Syndicate, the body that controls a majority of organized crime in the United States.

As you chat, the conversation leads to Lucky Luciano. When was the last time you saw that guy?! He had been hiding out in Italy for years and suddenly he called this big meeting?

You know this week may be rough with all the fiery personalities leading the various families across the country, but at least he will be able to keep everyone in check. Leave it to Luciano himself to lead them all with ease.

After a period of talking and cigar smoking, a man hands you a small letter and then quickly moves on to your associate, handing him a letter as well. You watch as he moves on to another man before opening it: "Lucky Luciano's boat from Italy to Cuba has sunk in a storm, and he is presumed dead." You look up in shock as the rest of the men with letters quickly do the same. Lucky Luciano, the leader of this deadly organization, the man keeping it all together, is dead.



Hotel Nacional de Cuba

Questions to Consider

Leadership

- Luciano clearly called this meeting with the intention of being elected as the boss of all bosses, but his death leaves the title unclaimed. Do you elect a new boss of all bosses?
- How will power be distributed in the Syndicate to deal with the current issues? Do you trust your peers not to betray you?

Las Vegas

- How should Bugsy Siegel be dealt with?
- Should a new manager be chosen for the hotel project?
- If Siegel is out of the picture what should be done with the half finished hotel?
- Should Vegas remain as a free city?

Narcotics Trade

- The drug trade is highly profitable, but is it necessary for the mafia's survival with the added attention it brings?
- Should the Syndicate use Luciano's new Italian connections to begin trading in heroin?
- Should the Syndicate work with the French Connection crime group?

Public Image

- Should the mafia stay a secret?
- Should members continue to be flamboyant in their expressions of their wealth, or should they be forced to not be showy?
- What organizations should the mafia look to work with?
- If the government begins to investigate the mafia, how could you fight back?
- How can you prevent any rats?

Character Dossier

Luciano Family

Frank "The Prime Minister" Costello, Luciano family boss

Costello is an old friend of Luciano and served as the consigliere of the Luciano family. In 1937, he became acting boss and hopes to maintain this power with all the recent shakeups in the family. He has formed numerous political connections with Tammany Hall leaders, earning him the nickname "Prime Minister". He is eager to use Luciano's foreign connections to expand into hard drugs, seeing New York as a key part of the trade.

Gaurino "Willie Moore" Moretti, Luciano family underboss

Moretti is the godfather of Frank Sinatra and has played a key part in his success, as well as that of other Hollywood stars. He would like to continue the success of the actors and musicians under his influence, as it brings in a lot of money for himself and his family. Another of his main businesses is his gambling dens throughout Jersey and upstate New York that he runs with Jewish associate Abner Zwillman. He is hoping that leadership remains concentrated in the Luciano family.

Vito "Don Vito" Genovese, Luciano family capo

Genovese is an old friend of Luciano and served as the underboss of the Luciano family. In 1936, he became acting boss, but fled to Italy due to murder charges and left Costello to become acting boss. During that time, he made close ties with Fascist leaders as he continued to work in organized crime. After the allied invasion of Italy, he worked with the US Army in allied controlled Italy. During that time he worked with the Sicilian mafia in their criminal activities, but was soon discovered to be a criminal. The US Army then sent him back to America to be tried in court. He was dismissed on murder charges earlier this year and has now rejoined the Luciano family in the US. He hopes to return to power as boss of his family and boss of all bosses.

Anthony "Little Augie Pisano" Carfano, Luciano family capo

Carfano is the Luciano family's main man in south Florida. He has built a burgeoning gambling empire in Miami as well as invested in numerous spas and hotels. He also has some connections to begin expanding his gambling enterprise into Cuba. He hopes to secure Florida and Cuba as territory for the five families. He is hoping that leadership remains concentrated in the Luciano family and that Florida can be used as part of the drug trade.

The Additional New York Families

Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno, Bonanno family boss

Bonanno spent his youth in Italy, forming connections with members of the Sicilian mafia. He fled to the US following the rise of Mussolini and soon became involved in the Castellammarese War. During that time, he took up odd jobs from acting to baking before settling on organized crime. He became the new boss of Maranzano's family, upholding some of the same traditions of honor that were common to the older mafiosi. Because of this, he is opposed to the dealing of narcotics (Bonanno).

Giuseppe "The Old Man" Profaci, Profaci family boss

Profaci entered the world of organized crime through the connection he made in the olive oil industry and his family's status as mafiosi in Sicily. He also has close ties with the Catholic church in New York City, making many generous donations. He also owns a massive estate in New Jersey which formerly belonged to president Theodore Roosevelt. Overall, he is a flamboyant man who is not afraid to show his wealth. Due to his honor and religious beliefs, he is opposed to the trade of heroin.

Albert "The Mad Hatter" Anastasia, Mangano family underboss

Anastasia is the underboss of one of the five families, but has enough power to be a threat of his own. After all, he is the one here representing the Mangano family, not the boss. He has a strong influence on the New York City waterfront through labor unions. He negotiated a lessening of Luciano's sentence by helping train longshoremen during the war. He is hoping that leadership remains concentrated in the New York families and wants his family to become the most powerful in New York City.

Gaetano "Tommy Brown" Lucchese, Gagliano family underboss

Lucchese is here representing the family of the secretive boss Tommy Gagliano. His family controls many of the garment workers unions across New York City. He also has an interest in boxing, using his contacts to set up rigged fights. He is hoping that leadership remains concentrated in the New York families and wants his family to become the most powerful in New York City.

Italian-American Families Outside New York City

Anthony "Joe Batters" Accardo, Chicago Outfit boss

Accardo has used his intelligence to put him in a leading position of the Chicago Outfit, the group controlling almost the entirety of organized crime in Chicago. He expanded into slot machines, having these sources of revenue in businesses throughout Chicago and Vegas. He is wary of the mob gaining too much attention, as he is hoping for the Chicago Outfit to become the main Mafia power in the US and Cuba.

Sam "Mooney" Giancana, Chicago Outfit front boss

As opposed to Accardo, Giancana is much more boastful and showy of his position in the Outfit. He oversees Chicago's interests in Louisiana as well as expanding the Outfit's interests into Panama and Iran. He would be greatly benefitted in any shift in the power of the National Crime Syndicate from New York to either Chicago or the south. He would also like to see a continued expansion in power for the Chicago Outfit.

Stefano "The Undertaker" Magaddino, Buffalo family boss

With Buffalo being so close to the border, Magaddino has made lots of Canadian business connections that allowed him to become very wealthy through the sale of smuggled alcohol during prohibition. He even has control of large portions of the drug trade in Montreal and Toronto. He is hoping to leverage these connections to make him a key player in the international drug trade.

Angelo "Docile Don" Bruno, Philadelphia family boss

Bruno is a high ranking member of the Philadelphia mafia. He is known for his nonviolent methods for solving issues faced by his family. He is also staunchly opposed to moving into the industry of heroin. His policies have made him very popular with the citizens of Pennsylvania who see him as protecting their interests, rather than acting as purely a criminal. He hopes to have the American mafia be seen as honorable, not just businessmen willing to hurt innocent people.

Santo "Louie Santos" Trafficante Jr., Tampa family caporegime

Trafficante is an up and coming member of the Tampa family, soon to take over from his father. His family controls many areas of west Florida and aims to control it all. Besides Florida, Trafficante has used his status as the only member of the conference to know Spanish in order to be a key contact with the Cubans. He wants Florida and Cuba to be key parts of drug smuggling into the US.

Jewish Syndicate

Meyer "The Little Man" Lansky, Jewish Syndicate boss

Lansky is the most influential Jewish mobster amongst the Italians. He worked with Luciano to create the National Crime Syndicate and was essential to consolidating their finances. He is a good friend of former Cuban president Fulgencio Batista, who helped him expand his gambling empire to Havana. In early 1946, he convinced the mob to put Siegel in charge in Las Vegas but lost lots of his own investment money to the Flamingo Hotel project. He still has faith in Siegel to help expand his empire into Vegas.

Abner "Longy" Zwillman, New Jersey Jewish Syndicate boss

Zwillman controls a majority of organized crime in the state of New Jersey. Before WWII, he helped form the New Jersey Minutemen, a group of anti-Nazi fighters who violently disrupted gatherings of fascists in the state. He also has significant political influence in Newark. He hopes for the Jewish Syndicate to continue to expand in New York City and New Jersey. He has spent his life protecting the people of New Jersey and does not want heroin to be used to hurt them or his public image.

Morris "Moe" Dalitz, Cleveland Jewish Syndicate boss

Despite being the leading Jewish mafioso in Cleveland, he served in WWII from 1942-1945. In the one year since his discharge, he has made a name for himself as an up and coming force in Las Vegas. He is currently the largest employer in Las Vegas through his casinos and has a very positive public perception. He hopes for the Jewish Syndicate to continue to expand in Vegas. He views Siegel as a roadblock into the Mafia's success in the area.

Meyer "Mickey" Cohen, Los Angeles Jewish Syndicate caporegime

Cohen is a fiery figure in the Los Angeles crime scene, being a former professional boxer. He has spent a lot of time in Cleveland and Chicago, so he has the ability to expand his influence into these cities as well through his connections. He is a good friend of Bugsy Siegel, who was his mentor when he first moved out west. He is known for his violent methods and paranoid nature, even having turned his house into a private fortress. He hopes to bring Los Angeles up to the same level as New York City and Chicago in the organized crime scene.

Associates

Calogero "Don Calò" Vizzini, Sicilian Mafia boss

Vizzini is the boss of Villaba, a city in the homeland of Sicily. Through his upbringing in rural Sicily, he was able to build a criminal family that aimed to bring order to the lawless countryside. He also assisted in the Allied invasion and rebuilding of Italy after the war. He was invited to the conference by Luciano to negotiate any potential trafficking deals between the American and Sicilian mafia. He is hoping to secure a contract that benefits the Sicilian Mafia.

Marcel Francisi, French Connection boss

Francisi is a Corsican crime boss who is serving as a representative of the French Connection drug ring. He controls an international gambling empire in Europe and has used this power to create an image for himself as an honorable WWII veteran and anti-communist politician. He was invited to the conference by Luciano to negotiate any potential trafficking deals between the American and Corsican mafia. He is hoping to secure a contract that benefits the French Connection.

Frank "The Defender" Ragano, Lawyer to the Mafia

Ragano is a lawyer from Tampa who has begun building close ties with the Italian and Jewish mafia families. He has made a name for himself defending Teamsters leadership from criminal accusations and could help their relationship to organized crime be even closer. The trade of hard drugs could lead to more business for him if any of the bosses end up facing charges.

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