

PROPOSAL

*MAFIA WARS: 150 Years of Dying To Be the Godfather*

*by*

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*What Is It About the Mafia?*

“You can lie, you can cheat, you can steal, you can kill, and it’s all legit. You can do any fuckin’ thing you want, and nobody can say nothing about it. Who the fuck wouldn’t want to be a wiseguy?”

When Lefty Ruggiero of the Bonanno Family told this to undercover F.B.I. agents Edgar Robb and Joe Pistone, he certainly imagined more attraction to such pursuits than exists in the heart of the average person, yet the Mafia does fascinate. I purchased what appeared to be a new biography of Lucky Luciano that turned out to be a retitled reprint of a 1939 book detailing the compulsory prostitution case that sent him to prison. A seventy year-old book on this relatively minor Mafia event being sold today in chain bookstores. Talk about a backlist.

“Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown” was never truer than in the Mafia where moving up the ladder is often accomplished by murdering those on the rung above. *MAFIA*

*WARS: 150 Years of Dying To Be the Godfather* is the first book to chronicle the history of the American Mafia through its highlights, the plotting and treachery of the ambitious to seize power while those on top struggle to stay there.

The history begins in New Orleans shortly after the civil war and ends in the new millennium with the criminal conspiracy having come nearly full-circle in its remarkable journey from small street gangs to shadow government in many areas and back to street gangs.

Readers will be delighted to find in one work all the stories of the treacheries of the Mafia that are its most fascinating moments, when violence erupts and there are many *Dying To Be the Godfather*.

### *The Competition Sleeps With the Fishes*

There is no book on the Mafia that tells its story from the perspective of *Mafia Wars*. The only reasonably complete history is *Five Families* by Selwyn Raab (NY: St. Martins Press, 2005) that seems to sail over the surface of events in order to cover the extensive material, giving the book a remote aspect.

*American Mafia* by Thomas Reppetto gave an abbreviated history of the Mafia from the 1920's to the early 1950's while his follow-up, *Bringing Down the Mob* didn't actually complete the tale but veered off to concentrate on the authority's efforts to combat the Mafia.

More scholarly works such as Stephen Fox's *Blood and Power: Organized Crime in Twentieth-Century America* (NY: William Morrow, 1989) are analytical rather than anecdotal and popular, often focusing on the corrosive effects of the mob on democratic government that

appeal to a limited audience of Mafia buffs. Then there are those such as *Playboy's Illustrated History of Organized Crime* (Chicago: Playboy Press, 1975), coffee-table sized books with sketchy historical coverage subordinate to the numerous photographs which are the main hook. Additionally, there are what might be called popular reference works on the Mafia, so-called encyclopedias listing people and events alphabetically. One of these was the recent reprint by HarperCollins, a publisher of many recent Mafia works, of the Bureau of Narcotics index of mafiosi involved in drugs from the early 1960's.

The more intimate portrayals concentrate on particular Families or a single era, confessionals by mobsters themselves, or inside exposés by the law enforcement officials who fought them.

*Mafia Wars* is unique compared to any of these and, recounting events from every era, has a large advantage over the popular works limited to single Families and times as it will not date quickly as do these more specific works. It will continue to be both a popular and a reference work for the foreseeable future, summarizing as it does the entire sweep of the history of the American Mafia at war with itself. In this regard, it will stay in print and continue to sell copies well into the future.

### *Why I'm the One to Have Written This*

The material of *Mafia Wars* was condensed from a 200,000-word history of the Mafia I wrote over a half-dozen years of research and writing. The knowledge of the Mafia I gained in researching and writing this work made it simple for me to be the joint first winner of NY *Daily*

News reporter Jerry Capeci's *Gangland* website Mafia contest. In addition to the several hundred books cited in the bibliography, I've researched most of the material in original newspaper stories and kept up on the most recent events through the use of the Internet that has a number of Mafia websites. I can say with confidence that there are few, if any, who know more of the history of the Mafia than myself.

I graduated from Boston University cum laude with a BA with Distinction in English Language and Literature. In addition to this non-fiction work, I have completed two novels: a crime thriller, a supernatural murder mystery. I also have written a dozen screenplays. Much of this work is available for review on my website, [www.bgmacintyre.com](http://www.bgmacintyre.com).

### Marketing

I have found there is an enthusiastic body of readers who follow the Mafia. Readings of *Mafia Wars* in bookstores should attract a significant audience interested in hearing the historical incidents and the latest information on the state of the Mafia that will be covered in this work. As a member of Mob clubs on Facebook, I will advertise my works with targeted ads on social media.

### Availability

*MAFIA WARS: 150 Years of Dying To Be the Godfather* runs 100K-words and is complete.

## CHAPTER SYNOPSES

### 1. WE'RE NOT IN SICILY ANYMORE — 1860 – 1900

Wealthy New Orleans businessman Joseph Macheca leads a political group and is head of the city's organized crime. Challenged by Sicilian mafioso Raffaele Agnello, warfare breaks out between the two rival crime Families / Macheca Family is routed at first, but finally kills Agnello and takes control / New mafioso Giuseppe Esposito arrives from Sicily and takes control / Authorities are tipped to his identity and he's arrested and sent back to Italy in chains, Macheca firmly in control / In 1890, the chief of police murdered in a war between Macheca and Prozenzano Families for control of the docks / Police arrest nineteen mafiosi as part of the conspiracy to assassinate the official but the case largely fails / Community leaders calmly call for vigilante justice, mob breaks into the prison and commits the largest mass 'lynching' in American history, eleven mafiosi shot and or hung / Italy makes threats that lead to Congress approving appropriations for fleet that allows US to win the Spanish American War later in the decade / Mafia learns lesson of not openly challenging the power structure in the United States the way it had done successfully in Italy and Sicily.

### 2. THE NOT YET RIPE BIG APPLE — 1900 - 1920

Explosion of immigrants makes New York center of American Mafia and rival Camorra / Morello Mafia Family battles Morano Camorra Family / Detective Joe Petrosino weakens Camorra then gunned down on undercover mission in Sicily / Moranos gain ascendancy but legal assault by authorities decimates leadership / Morello and Mafia take charge with new leader Giuseppe Masseria.

### 3. THE MAGIC MAFIOSO — 1920 - 1930

Leadership vacuum created in Morello Family filled by the squat, unprepossessing Masseria who combines brains of racketeer with ruthlessness of a gangster to earn the moniker of 'Joe the Boss' / Criminal bonanza of Prohibition forces American Mafia to absorb non-

Sicilians and make agreements with other ethnic gangs / Underboss to Masseria is Lucky Luciano who grew up in melting pot and works closely with other ethnic gangs, especially the Jewish gang of Meyer Lansky and Benjamin “Bugsy” Sigel.

4. SCARFACE GETS NO RESPECT — 1925 - 1930

In Chicago, non-Mafia Neapolitan Al Capone attempts to take over the fraternal organization called The Unione Siciliane / Opposition by Sicilian Families results in a level of violence that shocks the world / Castellammarese Mafia Family of Aiello makes proposal to Masseria to check Capone and, outraged by his greed, threatens him / Masseria makes proposals to other Castellammarese who rebuff him, setting up the coming war.

5. THE WAR TO END ALL WARS — 1930 - 1945

Masseria seeks to consolidate power over other Families, goes to war with the extended Castellammarese Family headed by Salvatore Maranzano / Maranzano fights more intelligently, holds own against stronger Masseria / Luciano upset at disruption of war, sets up Masseria to be murdered / Luciano and Maranzano plot to murder one another, Luciano kills Maranzano first and forms modern Mafia / Peace prevails through WWII even as Luciano is imprisoned then deported / Genovese facing murder charge flees to Italy.

6. DEADLY LAVA — 1945 - 1955

Vito Genovese returns to post-war New York from a decade’s exile in Italy, initiates challenge to Frank Costello for leadership of Masseria-Luciano Family / Albert Anastasia murders Mangano brothers to seize control of Mangano Family, allies with Costello / Tommy Lucchese becomes boss upon death of Tom Gagliano, joins Genovese in plot against Costello and Anastasia / Anastasia discovers Lucchese’s plot to murder him, Commission intervenes to prevent war between Families / Genovese becomes acting head of Family when Costello sent to prison, begins new plotting when Costello unexpectedly released.

7. BANG BANG YOU'RE DEAD, I WISH — 1955 - 1957

Genovese unsuccessfully tries to kill Costello / Commission steps in to prevent war, Costello retires and Genovese becomes boss / Anastasia gunned down in New York barbershop.

8. LET'S GO SEE THE MOO COWS — 1957 - 1960

Apalachin meeting to discuss warfare busted by police / Genovese convicted on drug charge, sent to prison, joined by Costello on earlier charge, but peace holds / Joe Valachi driven to become informer by Genovese's plot to kill him.

9. CRAZY JOEY'S OCELET — 1958 - 1963

Brooklyn Gallo crew of the Profaci Family opens revolt by kidnapping four Profaci leaders, one of whom is secretly plotting with them / Commission intervenes, Gallos satisfied with mediation, Profaci is not / Warfare erupts as Profaci tries to kill senior Gallo brother / Police round up dozens of mafiosi, disrupting business / Joey Gallo sent to prison / Commission tries a second time, Gambino and Lucchese as allies suggest the ill Profaci step down, Bonanno opposes them viewing it as a plot for them to grab power / War continues, Profaci dies of cancer, Magliocco becoming boss, plots with Bonanno to kill Lucchese and Gambino / Joe Colombo betrays plot, Commission forces Magliocco to step down, Colombo installed as boss.

10. THE SLIPPERY BANANA — 1963 - 1970

Bananna War pits Joe Bonanno against Commission / Commission splits Bonanno Family by backing capo Gaspar DiGregorio over Bonanno's son Bill / Assailed by Commission and authorities, Bonanno fakes kidnapping and goes into hiding for two years / Bonanno's son, Bill, and his men ambushed with shootout on Brooklyn street / Commission disenchanted with DiGregorio, removes him and installs Paul Sciacca / Bonanno returns, makes peace with Commission, retires to Arizona, Bonanno Family remains divided.

11. JOEY REDUX — 1970 - 1974

Joe Colombo initiates public protest against FBI by claiming ethnic profiling / Gambino dislikes publicity and FBI's spirited crime-fighting response, Colombo ignores Gambino's warnings / Joey Gallo returns to New York from long prison stretch, renews warfare this time against Colombo / Colombo shot at rally and mentally crippled / Joey, taken up by chic society, shot to death / Uproar by public and authorities when a Gallo gunman mistakenly kills kosher meat salesman in Manhattan restaurant dampens war.

12. SOMETIMES IT'S JUST A CIGAR — 1974 - 1979

Bonanno capo Lilo Galante returns from prison and moves to become most powerful boss by taking over Family from dangerous Rusty Rastelli / Galante allies himself with Sicilian wing of Family, called Zips, heavily involved in narcotics / Commission agrees to hit on Galante by a faction of Bonannos backed by Gambino Family, Galante gunned down with own Zip bodyguards betraying him.

13. IN WITH THE OLD, OUT WITH THE NEW — 1979 - 2006

Commission dominates Bonanno Family after Galante's death / Indelicato crew that whacked Galante moves in on Zip rackets / Crew headed by Joey Massino hits Indelicato and two other capi, Indelicato's son Bruno escaping / Undercover FBI agents Edgar Robb and Joe Pistone, taken up as associates by Sonny Black Napolitano's crew, given contract to kill Bruno causing their operation to be wrapped up by FBI / Napolitano and others in Family killed for their mistake in associating with undercover FBI agents, some saved by arrest / Bonanno Family shunned by other Families, falling off radar screen of authorities which, ironically, gives them time and space to regroup and emerge later as one of most powerful Families / Underboss Sal Vitale becomes government witness in 2003, boss Massino, convicted of racketeering and indicted for murder of Napolitano twenty years earlier, also turns informer, entire Family decimated.



14. MELONHEAD — 1976 - 1992

Traditional friction between racketeers and gangsters in Gambino Family with Gambino appointing Paul Castellano as his successor instead of Anniello Dellacroce / Castellano remote and greedy boss (earning him nickname of Melonhead by murderous capo Roy DeMeo) with many legitimate businesses while Dellacroce is close to more violent crews such as John Gotti / Castellano wants to kill Gotti's close friend Angelo Ruggiero after his indictment on narcotics charge, perhaps disband Gotti's crew / Dellacroce dies of cancer, Gotti kills Castellano and makes himself boss / Genovese boss Chin Gigante plots to kill Gotti. various mafioso killed on both sides, Gotti saved by being arrested by feds on racketeering charge, dies in prison.

15. THE SCREWED SCREWED — 1987 – 1994

Bosses of all Families except Bonannos sent to prison in Commission case / Lucchese leadership seized by violent Vic Amuso and Anthony Casso who kill capo in garment district and then start war against Jersey crew to gain bigger share of spoils / Various other scams involving public housing cause more killing / Investigation by authorities forces Amuso and Casso to go into hiding, plan to kill all witnesses against them forces many to turn to government for protection / Casso phones in 'anonymous' tip for authorities to capture Amuso / Casso caught by phone trace, tries to make deal by becoming informer, lies so much government reneges on deal.

16. RIDING THE BIGHOUSE BULL — 1987 - 2009

Colombo boss Carmine "The Snake" Persico in prison for life in Commission case wants jailed son Allie to take over when he's freed / Acting boss Vic Orena doesn't want to step down, appeals to Commission backed by Gotti while Genovese faction backs Persico / Arrests of bosses derails Commission / Persico faction tries to kill Orena, initiating open warfare / Commission attempts settlement to no avail / Mistaken killing of innocent bystander causes authorities to crack down by arresting mafiosi / Orena goes into hiding

but is caught and sent to prison / War quiets, but continues with sporadic murders, including that of aspirant-for-the-throne William “Wild Bill” Cutolo, murdered by Allie Persico which causes Cutolo’s son to become informant / Allie Persico hit with one charge after another, finally convicted of Cutolo murder and sentenced to life in prison, currently incarcerated in the maximum security facility in Florence, Colorado.

#### EPILOGUE

Even with the war on terror occupying the authorities, the Mafia remains a target / The mobsters turn on one another to lighten their own sentences / Authorities bring down Family after Family / The Mafia largely goes back to being small-time street gangs / The days of dying to be the Godfather may truly be at an end.