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MAFIA: THE PHENOMENON OF HISTORY

"Judges, lawyers, and politicians have a license to steal. We don't need one." – Carlo Gambino [1].

All we know about the criminal activity of mafia usually based on those films about different gangs, mafia members, such as "Good Fellas", "The Untouchables", "Once upon the time in America", "The Irishman", played by Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, and others. There are also some TV series like legendary "The Sopranos" directed by David Chase. Most of them, showing us some kind of romantic part of gangster being, but what about crimes, murders, corruption, and other sins? What does mafia mean?

Mafia is a criminal community that formed in Sicily in the second half of the 19th century and subsequently spread its activity to large economically developed cities of the USA and some other countries. It is an association of criminal groups having a common organization, structure, and code of conduct (omerta) [3].

In the late XIX - early XX centuries, Sicilians, primarily for economic reasons, massively migrated to the United States, where they successfully transferred the traditions of the mafia as a social-criminal structure into American society, while the mafia continues to exist and develop in Sicily itself. At the end of the 19th century, all four branches of the Italian mafia took root on the east coast of the United States, following a wave of Italian migrants. During the period of fascism, local authorities were especially active in the fight against the mafia, which became an additional reason for the emigration of many Mafiosi to the USA and other countries.

In Italy in 1943-1945, the mafia represented by the authoritative boss Lucky Luciano in the USA and Sicily actively helped anti-fascists and Anglo-American troops. The influence of the Italian mafia in the United States reached its highest point in the middle of the 20th century. The tandem of the mafia and the unions in the mid-1950s forced the government to make concessions to the latter [2]. Since the 1960s, the mafia in the United States has been competing with organized crime groups, Mexicans, Colombians, and Chinese, and has contact with Slavic organized crime groups and the Aryan Brotherhood.

Investigations by the FBI in the 1970s and 1980s significantly reduced its impact. Currently, the US mafia is a powerful network of criminal organizations in the country, using their position to control most of the Chicago and New York criminal business.

They had their own rules and hierarchy. Mafiosi murdered people, tortured people, robbed people, and show the whole world how to break the law. But why did it become so popular theme for movies? Why is someone trying to find out information about those cruel men, who drowned people alive with cement on their feet or who strangled members of his own "family" with a garrotte?

The reason is quite simple. Often the mafia helped residents of the area in which it dominated more than the state. Iron principles, concepts, family values, and a clear structure of these organizations aroused respect among ordinary civilians, who were easier to pay a certain

amount of money and to be sure about tomorrow because of the protection that these "gangsters" represented.

So, here we have an image of a "good fellow", Robin Good of that time, who are taking from the rich and giving to the poor, and, of course, the unshakable faith in God. Sounds great! Many of those bandits thought so, and so justified themselves. All these contradictions, therefore, became so interesting to a simple layman that became the basis for truly brilliant works of no less than brilliant directors.

The phenomenon of the mafia is that the government of the US couldn't do a thing with them for long, that those cold-blooded killers had the respect of people. Even nowadays we are interested in their story, in the story of the outlaws.

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SUNGLASSES FROM THEN TO NOW

What comes to your mind when you hear about sunglasses? Maybe you think of it as one of the most important accessory of nowadays? Or maybe the only thought that appears in your head is the importance of protection of your eyes from the sun? But the both of the opinions are totally correct. So, sunglasses are not only about the beauty and style, it is mostly about the safety and health. But have you ever thought about the appearance of this “tiny helper”?

The history of sunglasses began many centuries BC. In those times people used unusual materials to make them, such as wood, fabrics, precious and semi-precious metals and other materials. The earliest known use of glasses to protect eyes from the sun was the Inuit use of “sun goggles” to shield their eyes from the blinding glare of light reflected off the snow. These were made from carved driftwood, bone, walrus ivory, or caribou antler that formed a strip worn across the eye area, with thin slits that the wearer could see through [2].

Another prototype of the glasses was found in Ancient Egypt, it was made of bronze and emeralds. One of the legends says that Nero, the emperor of Ancient Rome, used sunglasses to watch gladiator’s fights. In that model emeralds were used as lenses.

One more historical mention of goggles was associated with China. The Chinese made a slight improvement over the Inuit model in the 12th century, when they used smoky quartz for lenses, but the specs were used for concealing judges’ facial expressions rather than style or sunlight purposes [1]. But after some time judges realised that this device is very convenient not only for hiding their emotions from the inquisitive eyes, but also is great for protecting their own eyes from bright sunlight.