

The main and oldest Italian mafia organizations: a recap framework

ORGANIZATION	Cosa Nostra	Camorra	'Ndrangheta
Previous names	Mafia (became more organized and changed name after WW II)	Onorata società, Società della Umirtà (omertà)	Spanzati (1792) Picciotti (1888) (not real organizations)
Region of origin	Sicilia	Campania	Calabria
Type of organization	Pyramidal (top: Cupola)	Horizontal (Some say: camorrE, plural)	Horizontal (with a top group named <i>La Santa</i> as external affairs Ministry)
Basic org. element	Famiglia (family) or cosca	Clan (also called sistema – system)	'Ndrina (family)
Relationship	Trust	Trust	Blood (and of course trust)
Origin of the name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arabic ma hias = bravery • spoken arabic: ma-fi-ah = not existing • arabic: maehfil = meeting • arabic: mu'afak = protection of the weak • mafia (many dialects) = misery or striking showing off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamarra: Spanish army cape • Camorra: tax on gambling • Ca (capo) + morra: chief of morra, the gambling house • Name of a gambling house Gomorra (like the biblical city) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • andragathía (ancient Greek) = courage, bravery
First appearance	Beginning of 19 th century	17 th Century	Beginning of 19 th century
First historic record	1878 – Fratellanza di Favara (Agrigento province); Stuppagghieri of Monreale	1820, foundation of “Bella Società Riformata”. The code of Camorra “O frieno” is very similar to the one of la Garduña – a secret society of murderers, founded in 1420 in Toledo – Spain	Police found the Nicastro Code in 1888, Seminara code in 1896 Not to be confused with banditry
First appearance of the name	1863, in the drama play: “I mafiusi della vicaria” (by Giuseppe Rizzotto); in a police reserved report (1865)	1735, in an official Kingdom authorization to open gambling houses and to collect taxes on it	The word 'Ndrangheta first appeared in 1948, in <i>Crimen</i> magazine
Territorial context	Countryside	City of Napoli	Countryside (Reggio C. province)
Area of spreading today	Sicily, some Italian regions (North). Beginning of 20 th century : USA	Campania, some Italian regions (Lazio, North). Spain.	Calabria, some Italian regions (North). Germany, Canada, Australia, USA.
Starting capital.	Violent takeover of Nobles' real estate (farms), stealing animals, racket	Racket on port trade, gambling. After WWII: contraband of cigarettes	Kidnapping for ransom, racket
Main Business today	Drugs, public works, racket, usury, weapon trafficking,...	Drugs, public works, gambling, hazardous waste trafficking , racket, usury, contraband of counterfeit products,...	Drugs, public works, money laundry, racket, weapon trafficking,...