

RIGHT An American Marine medic administers plasma to a wounded soldier behind the front line in the streets of San Agata, during the Allied invasion of Sicily.



Guerilla Warfare

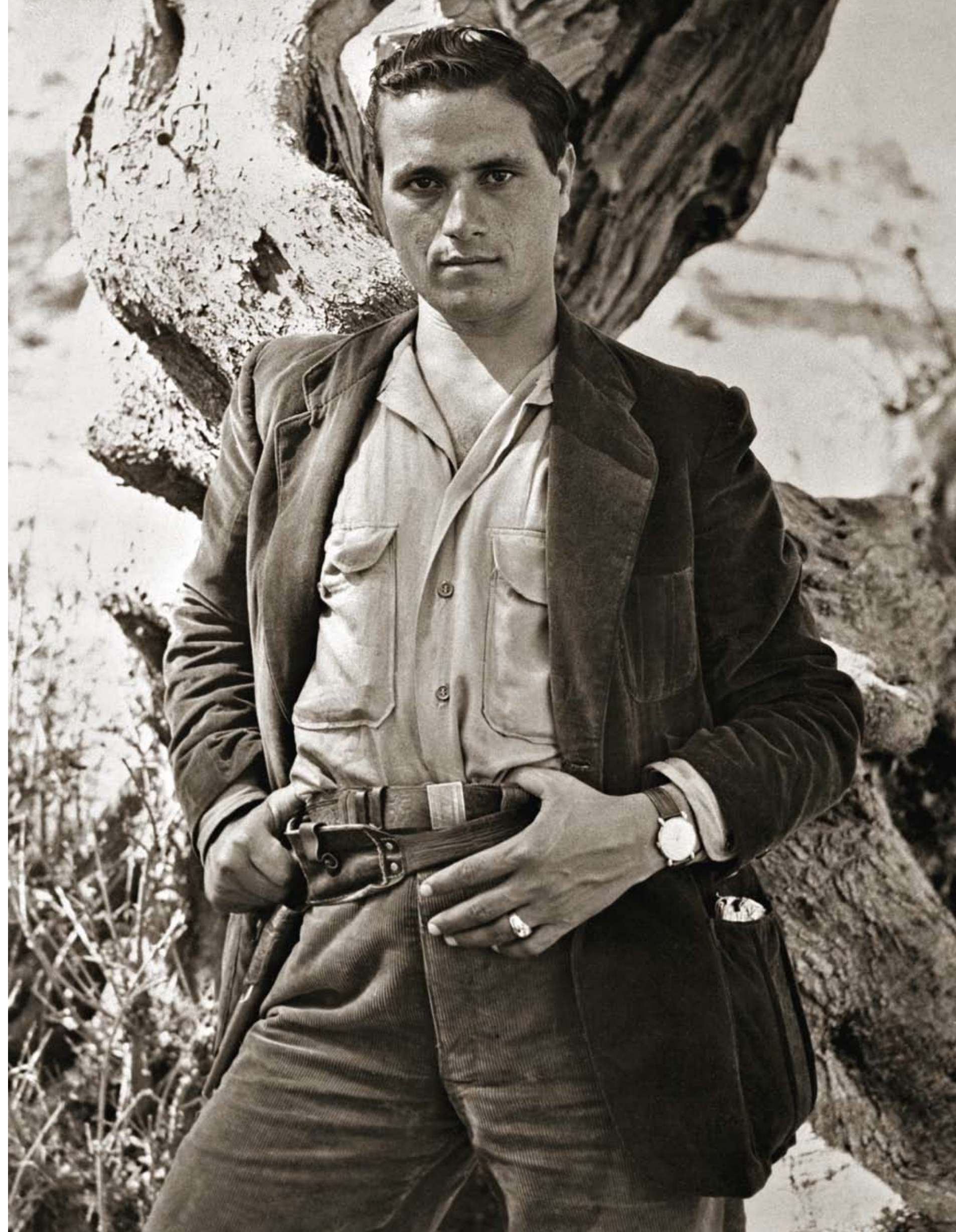
With a small but extremely tough volunteer army, the movement for independence in Sicily—which represented a variation on the old and unattainable Mafia dream of becoming a state—began its armed struggle in the autumn of 1944, partly as a reaction to the continual and arbitrary attacks carried out by the police forces against its offices and supporters. Their attempt to bring about a separatist insurrection gave rise to vehement resistance, leading to guerilla warfare. The Italian government was forced to send the army to Sicily to support the police and *Carabinieri* and to put down the revolt. On June 17, 1945, the commander and founder of the separatist army, Antonio Canepa, was killed in a gunfight with the *Carabinieri*. His death provoked many well-founded suspicions that the Mafia was directly responsible. Given their antipathy to words such as “socialism” and “revolution,” they were no doubt keen to rid themselves of such a subversive combatant.

A Sicilian Bandit

Concetto Gallo became the new head of the separatist army and then entered into an alliance with the bandits hoping to achieve victory for the revolt. He proposed that the most famous and wanted bandit in all of Sicily, Salvatore Giuliano, should join the volunteer army for the movement for Sicilian independence.

Giuliano accepted, and he and his band carried out a series of attacks on the police and *Carabinieri* as well as on the troops sent by Rome to halt the progress of the rebellion. In May 1946, a statute aimed at providing a political solution to the military crisis was authorized, guaranteeing administrative autonomy for the region of Sicily and thus effectively neutralizing the separatist cause. The Italian government granted an amnesty for political crimes, but this excluded crimes related to the use of firearms. Giuliano, who had until then been protected by the Mafia, now found himself both isolated and betrayed. Finding himself exposed, Giuliano played the anti-communism card, thus regaining the protection and favor of the Mafia.

OPPOSITE Proud of his “Robin Hood” reputation, 27-year-old bandit and separatist Salvatore Giuliano poses for the camera. He managed to attract international interest, and was even featured on the cover of *Time* magazine.



Yakuza Modern Samurai



ABOVE A priest sits serenely before stacked jars of sake in a temple. Sake is sometimes used in initiation ceremonies in Yakuza.

In the last 20 years of the twentieth century, the Japanese economy went on an extraordinary ride, and the Yakuza rode the tide adeptly, making profits in the economic highs and lows.

Driven Underground

In the twentieth century, the Yakuza proved to be an extraordinary organized crime group, engaging in street racketeering as well as manipulation of national politics. Despite the fall in public influence, connections between politics and the Yakuza remain pervasive. However, the public aversion to gang-influenced politics forced the corruption deeper underground.

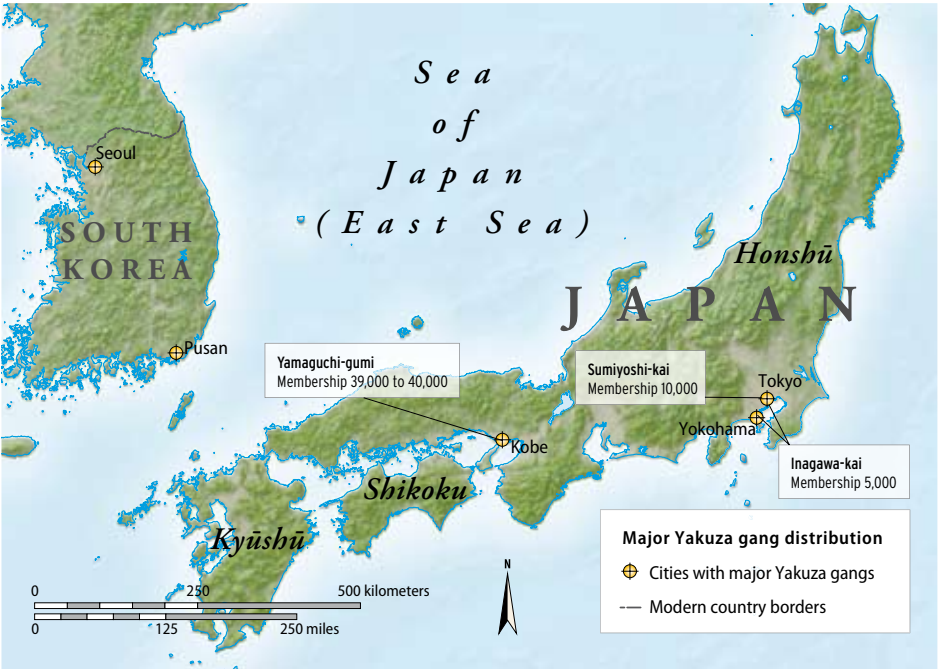
Marching towards the twenty-first century, the gangsters no longer confined themselves to street rackets. They brought their extortion schemes to financial markets and corporate and real estate business. To meet the challenge in the age of global economy, they transformed themselves into economic gangsters—both financial and corporate racketeers. Much of the Yakuza’s story—their strength, devotion, and success—must be told in the context of their culture, customs, organizational structures, as well as the unique relationships they maintain with the public.

Structure

The traditional Yakuza power structure, like that of Italian Mafia, is pyramid. Clans are organized in families, with a godfather at the top and new members coming to the clan as older brothers, younger brothers, and children.

The Yakuza system, however, features a unique Japanese relationship known as *oyabun-kobun*. *Oyabun* means “father role” and *kobun* means “child role.” The *oyabun* is obliged to provide protection and advice to the child. In return, the *kobun* promises unyielding loyalty and unquestioning obedience to the *oyabun*. The *oyabun-kobun* relationship is a mirror of the traditional Japanese family in which the father holds the paramount authority. Within the Yakuza gangs, the relationship produces strength, cohesion, devotion, and a trust unknown to other criminal groups in Western countries.

In the early Yakuza years, a very elaborate ceremony was developed to initiate new recruits into the organization. The ceremony, which continues today, is characterized by a formal exchange of sake (rice wine) cups, symbolizing the blood connection. During the ceremony, the *oyabun* and the initiate sit face-to-face as the sake is prepared and poured into cups. The cup of the *oyabun*



is full, while the initiate’s gets much less, befitting their respective status. They drink a little, then exchange cups, drinking the sake from the other’s cup. The initiate, now a *kobun*, has made his commitment to the family. From this moment on, the *kobun* regards the *oyabun* as his parent and he must follow him through “fire and flood.”

Expulsion

The Yakuza requires the members to follow a set of rules including strict adherence to secrecy and obedience to the *oyabun-kobun* system. Cowardice, disobedience, and revealing gang secrets are dealt with severely.

Short of death, the most severe punishment is expulsion. Upon expulsion, special postcards are sent to all Yakuza gangs with which it has friendly relations, informing them of the expulsion. To honor a long-standing tradition, no Yakuza groups would accept the expelled member. Expulsion carries severe consequences, for the expellee is usually deprived of the opportunity of both legal and illegal employment. Being a gang member, the expellee may find it hard to find employment in the legitimate sector and he is forbidden to take part in illegal activity in the Yakuza’s territory. An expellee who violates the understanding may be challenged, beaten, or even killed if the warning is disregarded. By conducting himself properly outside the gang and showing remorse for his past transgressions, the expellee may be reinstated, after a length of time. Postcards will be sent to relevant Yakuza groups with the notification of reinstatement of the member.

ABOVE Modern-day samurais in their traditional costume, prepare to fire their guns signaling the opening of the Musha Gyoretsu Festival that takes place in the seventeenth-century Odawara Castle.

1960	Socialist Party Secretary-General Inejiro Asanuma is assassinated by a right-wing fanatic, presumed a member of Yakuza.
1970	The amphetamine “speed” accounts for almost half the income of Yakuza.
1990	Yamaguchi-gumi have over 40 offices in Tokyo.
1996	Loan sharking— <i>sarakin</i> —is held responsible for the suicide of over 3,000 people in Japan.



GOTCHA!

The Capture of Bernardo Provenzano

ABOVE Police approach the cheese dairy, near Corleone, where Bernardo Provenzano hid out for 42 years.

On the morning of April 11, 2006, special units of the Italian police force were located at a distance of 1.2 miles (2 km) from an isolated farmhouse in the area of Contrada dei Cavalli, near Corleone.

Surveillance

Using a micro-camera hidden in a bush, the police watched for signs of movement around the farmhouse. They had been there for about two weeks. The farm consisted of two old houses. A shepherd lived in one of them; the other appeared uninhabited. However, a television antenna on the roof made the investigators suspicious.

Suspicious Bag

A policewoman had brought the place to their attention. She had noticed that a bag was often left outside the door of a house in Corleone where members of the Provenzano family lived, and realized that the bag could represent an important lead in capturing the head of *Cosa Nostra*, Bernardo Provenzano. Eventually the bag was

collected by a passer-by and as he walked away he was followed. A couple of days went by and the bag was passed from the first man to a second. Another few days passed and it was handed to a third man. Finally, after a couple of weeks it was delivered to a shepherd who lived in the isolated farmhouse outside Corleone.

One morning the shepherd approached the apparently empty building. The door opened, an arm reached out and the bag was taken.

“Congratulations”

It was decided to carry out a raid immediately as a secret passage may have existed and if the suspect really was Provenzano, he could make an escape. Just a few days before, the super boss’s defending lawyer had made a declaration stating, “It is pointless for the police to continue looking for him, he died some years ago.” The interview was shown on television and was almost certainly a message in code for Provenzano meaning, “your cover is blown.”

The first policeman to make a move was Renato Cortese. Flinging open the door of the house, he found a man standing upright and motionless inside. His appearance was very different from the computer-generated identikit based on information from state witnesses that police had circulated a few weeks before. On the table, however, was some chicory, a vegetable known to be part of the Mafia boss’s diet due to his prostate problem. Cortese knew that after so many years he had finally captured his man. As the police squad surrounded him, Provenzano spoke only a single word: “Congratulations.” Then, as he was being taken to police headquarters, he added, “You have no idea what this will start.”

No technology of any kind was found inside the farmhouse. The Mafia boss had used neither a cell phone nor a computer. There was only a small television and an old typewriter for typing his *pizzini*, the scraps of paper by which he controlled his entire organization. They also found five bibles, one of which was much underlined, and some cassettes recorded with music to keep him company. One of these was the soundtrack of the film “*The Godfather*.” The investigators succeeded in unraveling the connection between the *pizzini* and the bible—each *Mafioso* was associated with the number of a book in the Old Testament that was used as a code in the *pizzini*.

Life of Crime

Born there 75 years earlier, Bernardo Provenzano had rarely, if ever, left the his home town of Corleone. Since 1963 he had been in hiding from Italian justice, and the last known photo of him dated from the same year. Provenzano’s nickname was U’Tratturi—the tractor, that destroys everything that stands in its way.

He was born on January 31, 1933, the third of seven sons, and left school after only a year to work in the fields. His criminal career began by stealing animals and corn from peasants. In the 1970s, the Mafia families of Palermo controlled drug trafficking, while the Corleone clan was forced to organize kidnappings to finance its activities. This changed in the early 1980s when the Corleone clan gained control of the entire organization in a violent takeover. When the prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino were assassinated, the state passed a number of anti-Mafia laws and arrested Totò Riina, head of *Cosa Nostra*. At that point Provenzano took command. Following his orders, the massacres continued throughout 1993 in the rest of Italy—not in Sicily. The murders ceased at the end of 1993, but Provenzano continued to live in hiding until 2006 when at last he was betrayed—probably not by a simple bag, but by informers much higher up.



ABOVE This 2005 poster showed an approximation of what Provenzano might look like. He had been in hiding for such a long time that the police could only guess at his current appearance.

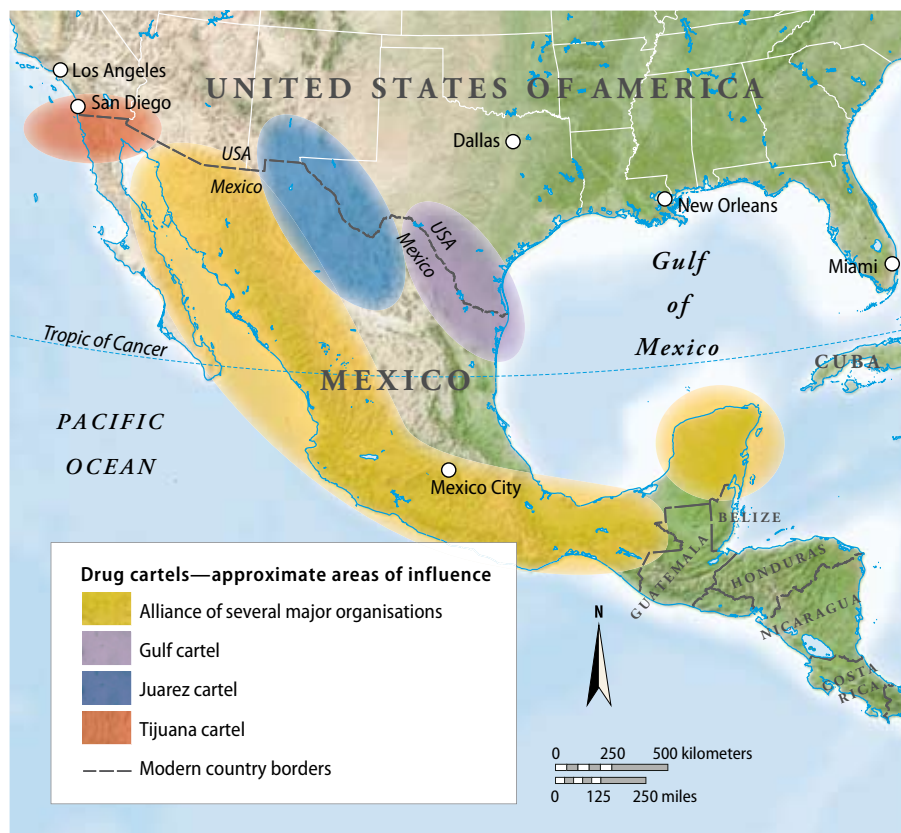
BELOW Provenzano after his arrest in Corleone in 2006. In 2009, Provenzano, together with Mafia boss Totò Riina, was given an additional life sentence, on top of the 12 he already faced, for the 1969 “Viale Lazio Massacre” between *Mafiosi*.





ABOVE A burqa-clad woman buys vegetables in the city of Herat, in western Afghanistan. Here, opium cultivation has dropped by 20 percent, unlike the southern regions where it still flourishes.

OPPOSITE Pakistani official stands guard as seized drugs are destroyed on International Anti-narcotics Day, in 2007.



International Alliances

Although criminal and terrorist groups both pose a danger to international security and are similar in many respects, they are inherently different types of organizations. Criminal activity is motivated by profit. Terrorist groups, while not being motivated by profit, may be willing to pursue any financial avenue or opportunity to ensure enough revenue to support the particular needs of recruitment, training, and logistical support, to further the objectives of their organization. When a relationship between criminal groups and specific terrorist organizations does exist, it is usually born of necessity and a shared need to further the objectives of both groups. For example, in the case of a state

with weak, corrupt, or non-existent internal security, or law enforcement constraints, such as the situation in Afghanistan, terrorists in control of a certain territory may negotiate the movement of drugs by traffickers for arms or monetary imbursement. Conversely, factors that may enter the decision of some terrorist groups to refrain from illegal activity, especially the drug trade, are increased susceptibility to military action or law enforcement, and loss of public and benefactor support among those who view this particular type of activity as a violation of some religious or social tenet.

Engaging in criminal activity to support operations and infrastructure while organized in the sense that there is a consistent pattern and *modus operandi* at work is not the same as establishing an ongoing operational alliance with groups such as the Albanian, Italian, or Russian Mafias. Colombian drug dealers have established formal alliances with Mexican, Dominican, Italian, and Russian criminal groups, providing new markets for Colombian narcotics and distribution channels to feed the growing drug demand in Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet satellite states. Equally discouraging is the fact that some of these alliances not only involve the distribution of dangerous narcotics and other illegal commodities but also supply weapons in exchange for drugs and provide opportunities for laundering the huge amounts of money earned by these criminal enterprises. There have also been reports that some former Russian KGB members were involved in some weapons-for-drugs exchanges. Evidence also exists that criminal groups operating out of Nigeria, have worked with Colombian cocaine and heroin drug criminals to traffic narcotics to the USA, Europe and South Africa.

The global trade in illicit narcotics is difficult to combat basically because it is a global trade. The demand for drugs exists in most countries throughout the world and is expanding as addiction levels rise constantly.

