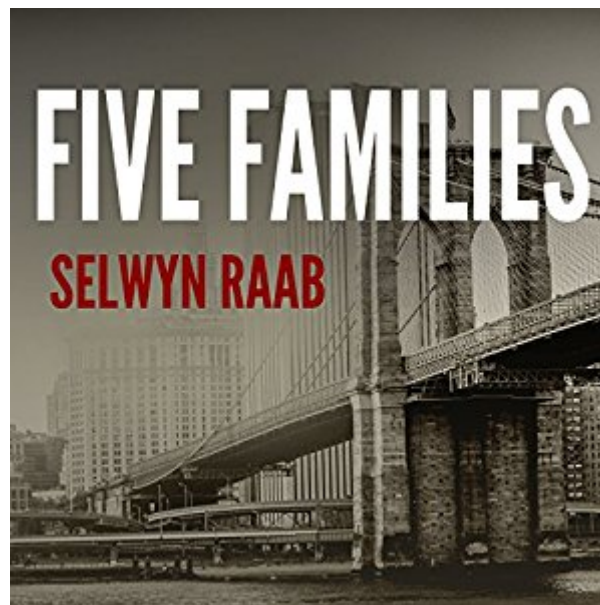




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# **Five Families: The Rise, Decline, And Resurgence Of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires**



## Synopsis

Genovese, Gambino, Bonnano, Colombo, and Lucchese. For decades these Five Families ruled New York and built the American Mafia (or Cosa Nostra) into an underworld empire. Today, the Mafia is an endangered species, battered and beleaguered by aggressive investigators, incompetent leadership, betrayals, and generational changes that produced violent, unreliable leaders and recruits. A 20-year assault against the five families in particular blossomed into the most successful law enforcement campaign of the last century. Selwyn Raab's Five Families is the vivid story of the rise and fall of New York's premier dons, from Lucky Luciano to Paul Castellano to John Gotti and more. The book also brings the listener right up to the possible resurgence of the Mafia as the FBI and local law enforcement agencies turn their attention to homeland security and away from organized crime.

## Book Information

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#35 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > True Crime

## Customer Reviews

Totally awesome book about the Mafia. So much information about the Mafia and organized crime awaits you in this book. It's awesome just to read for fun. Modern FBI agents combating against the Mob should actually read this book. It explains a lot and how things got to how they are today both on the perspective with the Mafia and the Feds. It's written extremely well and keeps your interest throughout the entire book. Heck, if anyone works for the FBI and sees this comment, reach out to me via LinkedIn.

A detailed account of one of the most important criminal organizations in the history of the U.S.,

including portraits of some of its highly unsavory characters. There is no romanticizing of the Mafia here; it is revealed in all its vulgar, raw baseness. The book also shows how far and wide the Cosa Nostra has ranged in its exploitation of every human activity. This is no "Godfather" account, here the mafiosi come through in the crass cheapness of their own words as taped by law enforcement. Whether it is malignant narcissism or sociopathy, these people live only to exercise power over others, and like leeches, they suck the life from their victims in industry, in small businesses, in waste management, in gambling, in drug trade. If you want a realistic account of la Cosa Nostra, this book is for you.

I have read quite a few books on Organized crime. I was hoping that this book would be another good read and give me more information on organized crime for my own entertainment. I was fairly disappointed in the first half of the book. I know it is hard to keep things straight on what is true and what is un-true, but I have read more accounts of earlier mob events that went differently than what was described in Five Families. From another book the hit on Anastasia was a rub out for him trying to force his way into more money in Cuba. I feel like Myers Lanskey wasn't give proper credit for the behind the scenes involvement with helping Lucky start the Commission. In the book the commission comes across as just run by the Five Families, but I am unsure if this is the truth, but I was under the impression that the head of the commission had a Chicago member and Trafficante. After the first half of the book, I was very impressed with the reporting. It was very informative on how Organized crime has continued to control certain industries. I also enjoyed the break down of each family. It would have been very confusing if it all got pushed together.

I enjoyed this book so much! It has so much history and facts on the origins of organized crime.

Would have been 4 or 5 stars but I needed a program or something to keep track of everyone. I do wish though, that I had a book like this in 1970-71 when I wrote a college paper on Organized Crime. Will definitely have to revisit this book a couple more times.

Comprehensive is the word which to me best describes Mr. Raab's book. Well-researched, and to me it was interesting because it hit the main points of the New York organized crime history and development from its inception. If a person with no knowledge whatsoever of the New York organized crime scene wanted to read a book to become familiar with it, I would recommend this book. It's one of the best I have read on the subject.

Could not put this book down. It's a story that holds a mirror up for us to see how a society can stick it's head in the sand and deny that there was a cancer growing in our society. The author does an outstanding job of showing how corruption at all levels of government in our country were a part of the problem along with the media, and how well the Mafia ran it's organization that ordinary citizens who were affected by their actions failed to cooperate with eliminating this evil group. The author did a wonderful job of researching and writing about an illness that is still around, quite and below the radar, but still around.

Seldom ever give a 5 star rating to a book, but if Mafia history is interesting reading for you, this is the one to buy. It's not just the tales of rackets and murders. It includes the full history of the families as well as federal, state, & local law enforcement agencies failures to recognize and address organized crime for 80 years. Truly enjoyable reading.

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