

CHAPTER TWO

Development of Organized Crime in the United States

Test Bank

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which Robber Baron's fortune was based on alcohol and fraud? Native American fur traders were cheated by agents of this Robber Baron's American Fur Company.
- a. John Jacob Astor
 - b. Cornelius Vanderbilt
 - c. Daniel Drew
 - d. James Fisk

ANS: A

LO: 1

REF: 20

2. As part of a scheme to fleece Vanderbilt, the _____ secretly authorized the issue of ten million new shares of Erie stock while Vanderbilt was busy buying up shares to gain control of the Erie Railroad.
- a. Erie Canal
 - b. Erie Gang
 - c. Irish
 - d. Erie Ring

ANS: D

LO: 1

REF: 21 | 22

3. How did John D. Rockefeller earn his fortune?
- a. the railroad
 - b. gold
 - c. oil
 - d. all of these

ANS: D

LO: 1

REF: 25 | 26

4. Immigration into the United States, except for brief depressions, grew dramatically in the years from 1820 to 1850, particularly in _____.
- a. rural areas
 - b. urban areas
 - c. coastal areas
 - d. forested areas

ANS: B

LO: 2

REF: 26

Test Bank

5. The immigrant gradually found that he possessed at least one commodity that some American natives coveted:
- a. vote
 - b. labor
 - c. children
 - d. strength

ANS: A

LO: 2

REF: 27

6. The roots of OC can be found in the politics of urban America before Prohibition, in the patron-client network known as:
- a. the Irish machine
 - b. the political machine
 - c. the corrupt machine
 - d. the immigrant machine

ANS: B

LO: 2

REF: 27

7. In Ireland, in the latter half of the 16th century, England tried to impose _____ on the largely _____ Irish.
- a. Catholicism, Protestant
 - b. Judaism, Protestant
 - c. Catholicism, Jewish
 - d. Protestantism, Catholic

ANS: D

LO: 2

REF: 27

8. In the United States, the Irish found themselves restricted from upward mobility, which was reserved for:
- a. middle-class Protestants
 - b. middle-class Catholics
 - c. middle-class Italians
 - d. middle-class Jews

ANS: A

LO: 2

REF: 28

9. Throughout much of urban America, the _____ was a center of neighborhood activity and an important social base for political activity.
- a. pool hall
 - b. casino
 - c. saloon
 - d. House of Congress

ANS: C

LO: 3

REF: 29

10. _____ were in a position to influence their customers and their votes—they could deliver their precincts and thus control the wards or districts.
- a. Salesmen
 - b. Saloonkeepers
 - c. Prostitutes
 - d. Bankers

ANS: B

LO: 3

REF: 29

11. By 1890, most big-city Democratic machines were controlled by:
- a. Italian bosses
 - b. Colombian bosses
 - c. Irish bosses
 - d. Russian bosses

ANS: C

LO: 4

REF: 32

12. In Kansas City, _____ began his political career as a saloonkeeper. He became a dominant power in the First Ward, and his ability to deliver the vote enabled him to provide police protection for organized gambling.
- a. Daniel Drew
 - b. James Fisk
 - c. Jay Gould
 - d. James Pendergast

ANS: D

LO: 4

REF: 33

13. The Constitution does not provide for or make mention of:
- a. freedom of religion
 - b. speedy trials
 - c. juries
 - d. political parties

ANS: D

LO: 4

REF: 29

14. In what city did a special grand jury, in 1928, find that certain members of that city's police department received a total of \$2 million in bribes annually?
- a. Chicago
 - b. Kansas City
 - c. New York
 - d. Philadelphia

ANS: D

LO: 4

REF: 34

Test Bank

15. Who was behind the Election Day outrage of 1934?

- a. Charles Parkhurst
- b. Clarence Lexow
- c. Jay Gould
- d. James Pendergast

ANS: D

LO: 4

REF: 33

16. Corruption reform was typically fostered by _____ for their own ends.

- a. business leaders
- b. politicians
- c. women
- d. police

ANS: A

LO: 5

REF: 35

17. Reformers in the late 19th and early 20th century were often part of rampant _____ that at times intertwined with social Darwinism.

- a. ethnocentrism
- b. nativism
- c. corruption
- d. discrimination

ANS: B

LO: 5

REF: 34 | 35

18. Who wrote a pamphlet in 1785 that helped fuel the move toward prohibition which, more than 130 years later, resulted in the Volstead Act (Prohibition)?

- a. John Howard
- b. James Pendergast
- c. Benjamin Rush
- d. Elizabeth Cady Stanton

ANS: C

LO: 6

REF: 36

19. In what year was the first temperance society established?

- a. 1785
- b. 1800
- c. 1808
- d. 1847

ANS: C

LO: 6

REF: 36

20. In what year was the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) established?
- a. 1785
 - b. 1800
 - c. 1808
 - d. 1874

ANS: D

LO: 6

REF: 36

21. Prohibition was accomplished by the political efforts of an economically declining segment of the _____.
- a. American upper-class
 - b. American middle-class
 - c. American immigrants
 - d. American Catholics

ANS: B

LO: 6

REF: 36

22. In _____, the National Safety Council adopted a resolution condemning alcohol as a cause of industrial accidents.
- a. 1808
 - b. 1914
 - c. 1940
 - d. 1970

ANS: B

LO: 6

REF: 36

23. The _____ strengthened the language of the Eighteenth Amendment and defined all beverages containing more than 0.5 percent alcohol as intoxicating.
- a. Volstead Act
 - b. RICO Statute
 - c. Truman Act
 - d. Prohibition Statute

ANS: A

LO: 6

REF: 36

24. Which of the following was created through the Volstead Act?
- a. The Organized Crime Unit
 - b. The Gambling Bureau
 - c. The Prohibition Bureau
 - d. The Political Enforcement of Organized Crime

ANS: C

LO: 26

REF: 37

Test Bank

25. In what city were three Prohibition agents indicted for selling seized liquor to bootleggers ten days after the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect?
- a. New York
 - b. Philadelphia
 - c. Chicago
 - d. New Orleans

ANS: C

LO: 6

REF: 37

26. Prohibition encouraged cooperation between gang leaders from various regions. This is known as:
- a. syndication
 - b. compartmentalization
 - c. cooperation
 - d. none of these

ANS: A

LO: 6

REF: 40

27. The importance of organized crime as a national political issue was recognized by Tennessee Senator _____ in 1950.
- a. Carl Hayden
 - b. Estes Kefauver
 - c. Robert Wagner
 - d. Claude Pepper

ANS: B

LO: 7

REF: 43

28. According to the Kefauver Committee, all members of organized crime were:
- a. Italian
 - b. Irish
 - c. Jewish
 - d. All of these

ANS: A

LO: 7

REF: 43

TRUE/FALSE

1. Most experts agree that Al Capone was the first ruthless entrepreneur to combine with thugs, gunmen, and government officials and carve out an illegal fortune.

ANS: F

LO: 1

REF: 20

2. One of the roots of organized crime can be found in the political machine.

ANS: T

LO: 2

REF: 27

Chapter 2: Development of Organized Crime in the United States

3. Throughout much of urban America, the saloon was an important social base for political activity.

ANS: T LO: 3 REF: 29

4. One of the roots of organized crime can be found in Prohibition.

ANS: T LO: 6 REF: 20

5. Immigration into the United States grew dramatically in the years from 1820 to 1850, particularly in rural areas.

ANS: F LO: 2 REF: 26

6. New immigrants to the United States in the 19th century found well-paying and upwardly mobile employment.

ANS: F LO: 2 REF: 26

7. The machine politician was usually a popular figure who provided important social services to loyal constituents.

ANS: T LO: 2 REF: 30

8. In Chicago, the police department generally, and the 38 district stations in particular, were parts of the Democratic political machine.

ANS: T LO: 2 REF: 33

9. The temperance movement of the 1800s did not make great progress in the United States.

ANS: F LO: 5 REF: 36

10. The financial piracy of the Robber Barons, nativism, and the corrupt political machines of urban America were some of the contexts from which OC emerged.

ANS: T LO: 1 REF: 20 | 26 | 35

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. One of the roots of organized crime can be found in the politics of _____ America before Prohibition. (Choose from rural, urban, or suburban.)

ANS: urban LO: 2 REF: 27

Test Bank

2. _____ success in politics was advanced by their ability to speak English, knowledge of the government, and the timing of their arrival in the U.S.

ANS: Irish

LO: 2

REF: 29

3. _____ allowed coarse street criminals to become “beer barons” who ruled large swaths of urban America.

ANS: Prohibition

LO: 6

REF: 38

4. The liquor business demanded large-scale organization and encouraged cooperation between gang leaders from various regions; this was known as _____.

ANS: syndication

LO: 2

REF: 40

5. The _____, who provided important services to loyal constituents, asked for votes and a free hand to become wealthy in politics in return for those services.

ANS: machine politician

LO: 2

REF: 30

6. The machine leader mediated between unorganized urban masses, the _____ and the _____.

ANS: underworld, upperworld

LO: 2

REF: 32

7. Congressional interest in organized crime in 1950 resulted in the _____ hearings.

ANS: Kefauver Committee

LO: 7

REF: 43

8. The Kefauver Committee equated organized crime with _____.

ANS: Italians

LO: 8

REF: 43

ESSAY

1. Discuss the success of the Irish in politics in America during the mid-to-late-nineteenth century.

ANS: Irish immigrants to the US remained in close-knit neighborhoods, where they joined the Democratic Party as an outlet for social and economic advancement. Politics enveloped them, and the Irish social structure became an integral part of the process of recruiting other Irishmen into both the party and government.

As the Irish swarmed into city politics, political office was the favored career, and politics became the secular extension of their religious identity.

Politics and government employment provided the most readily available road to social mobility. The Irish took over the political party (usually the Democratic Party) at the local level and converted it into virtually a parallel system of government.

The Irish clan system welded the Irish into a community capable of acting in concert while disregarding the formal governmental and legal structure.

Irish success in politics was also advanced by their ability to speak English, knowledge of government, and the timing of their arrival in the United States.

LO: 2

REF: 27 | 28 | 29

2. Discuss the importance of the saloon in urban America during the late nineteenth century.

ANS: The saloon was a center of neighborhood activity, an important social base for political activity, and saloonkeepers became political powers in many cities. Saloons provided social services, such as newspapers in several languages, cigars, mailboxes for regular patrons, free pencils, paper, mail services to those wishing to send letters, and information on employment.

Saloons provided “a warm fire in the winter, public toilets, bowling alleys, billiard tables, music, singing, dancing, constant conversation, charity and charge accounts, quiet corners for students, and special rooms for weddings, union meetings, or celebrations. No other institution provided such a variety of necessary services to the public” (Engelmann 1979: 4).

The city was divided into wards or districts, which were both electoral and administrative units. Saloonkeepers were in a position to influence their customers and their votes—they could deliver their precincts and thus control the wards or districts.

LO: 3

REF: 29

3. Discuss the impact of Prohibition on organized crime.

ANS: Until Prohibition, gangsters were errand boys for the politicians and the gamblers; they were at the bottom of a highly stratified social milieu. The gamblers were under the politicians, who were “kings” (Katcher 1959).

Prohibition changed the relationship among the politicians, vice entrepreneurs, and gang leaders. Before 1920, the political boss acted as a patron for the vice entrepreneurs and gangs: He protected them from law enforcement, and they gave him financial and electoral support.

The onset of Prohibition, however, unleashed an unsurpassed level of criminal violence, and violence is the specialty of the gangs. Physical protection from rival organizations and armed robbers was suddenly more important than was protection from law enforcement. Prohibition turned gangs into empires (Logan 1970).

LO: 6

REF: 38

4. What are the characteristics of “political machines?”

ANS: A political machine is a patron-client network. The political machine of the late 19th century is instructive on typical characteristics. The political machine organized and mobilized urban immigrants and workers into a political force through which it dominated city government. Control of government, in particular the police, enabled the machine to protect vice entrepreneurs and gang leaders who reciprocated with financial and voting support. Control of government enabled the machine to provide special favors to the captains of business and industry who reciprocated with financial support. Control of public and private sector jobs, and funds with which to provide social services, strengthened machine support among the urban masses.

LO: 3 | 4

REF: 35

5. In what ways did the Robber Barons serve as role models for, and create a climate conducive to, the growth of organized crime?

ANS: Unscrupulous American businessmen, such as Astor, Drew, Gould, Sage, Rockefeller, Stanford, and Vanderbilt cheated and corrupted their way to immense wealth. Some of the Robber Barons were slumlords, providing the desperate circumstances in which some of the later organized crime figures grew up.

LO: 1

REF: 20

6. Explain how nativism generated support for the political machine.

ANS: In cities dominated by machine politics, the same ones that would spawn organized crime, a pattern of corruption-reform-corruption-reform was often interspersed with investigations and widely publicized hearings.

Reformers were often part of the rampant *nativism* that at times intertwined with social Darwinism. Nativism helped tie urban dwellers—immigrants in general, Catholics (and often Jews) in particular—to the political machine.

Machine politicians “cultivated the immigrant’s ethnic pride by defending him against nativist attack, observing his customs, and concerning himself with conditions in the homeland.”

LO: 5

REF: 35

7. How did the findings of the Kefauver Committee influence views of organized crime?

ANS: The Kefauver committee tied organized crime and the Mafia, thereby equating Italians with organized crime.

LO: 8

REF: 43

8. In what way did Murder, Inc. symbolize cooperation between criminal organizations?

ANS: Murder, Inc., together with the founding of Las Vegas, and labor racketeering on a national level, symbolized the end of the gang wars and the confederation of the criminal organizations. The “Boys from Brooklyn” were used as staff killers by the newly formed confederation of organized crime leaders that emerged from Prohibition.

LO: 7

REF: 42

9. Discuss the pioneering role of the "Robber Barons" in American criminal history.

ANS: Important aspects of U.S. history have hinged on the use of violence, both figurative (for example, “financial piracy”) and literal (for example, the use of gunmen, thugs, private police, law enforcement agents, the National Guard, and the military), to further *private* ends. This legacy continues as evidenced by the economic crisis fostered by the finance industry.

LO: 1

REF: 26

10. Why did Irish immigrants in the 19th century get so involved in politics?

ANS: In the US, the Irish were restricted from upward mobility, which was reserved for middle-class Protestants. Irish immigrants joined the Democratic Party for social and economic advancement. The Irish social structure became an integral part of recruiting other Irishmen into both the party and government. The Irish swarmed into city politics.

LO: 2

REF: 28