



Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires

By Selwyn Raab

Download now

Read Online 

Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab

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 and unreliable leaders and recruits. A twenty 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 reader 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.

 [Download Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence o ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence ...pdf](#)

Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires

By Selwyn Raab

Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab

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 and unreliable leaders and recruits. A twenty 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 reader 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.

Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #55178 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-05-13
- Released on: 2014-05-13
- Format: Kindle eBook



[Download Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence o ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Mafia has long held a spot in the American imagination. Despite their earned reputation for brutality, the Mafia has been glorified in countless movies, books, and television shows. Not so in this book. Selwyn Raab makes no attempt to perpetuate myths about the Mafia; instead, he exposes them as a serious threat to honest citizens: "The collective goal of the five families of New York was the pillaging of the nation's richest city and region," he writes. These five families--Bonanno, Colombo, Gambino, Genovese, and Lucchese--were responsible for corrupting labor unions in order to control waterfront commerce, garbage collection, the garment industry, and construction in New York. They also ran illegal gambling operations, engaged in stock schemes, and initiated the widespread introduction of heroin (among other drugs) into cities of the East and Midwest in the 1950s, leading to "accelerated crime rates, law-enforcement corruption, and the erosion of inner-city neighborhoods in New York and throughout the United States." *Five Families* offers a comprehensive look at the inner workings of the various clans along with vivid profiles of the gangsters who led--and continue to maintain--this criminal empire.

Beginning with a brief history of the Sicilian origins of the Mafia, Raab exhaustively explains how the Mob took over New York before spreading to cities across America, particularly Las Vegas, their most successful outside venture. He also shows how the New York Mafia lost a great deal of power in the 1980s and '90s due to many significant busts and effective plea-bargaining. However, since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the F.B.I. has been focused mainly on external threats, leaving the Mafia room to regain some lost turf by moving into new avenues of crime. An investigative reporter for 40 years, Raab interviewed dozens of prosecutors, law enforcement officers, Mafia members, informants, and "Mob lawyers," providing anecdotes and inside information that tell the true story of the Mafia and their influence over the past 80 years. --Shawn Carkonen

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Former *New York Times* crime reporter Raab sets a new gold standard for organized crime nonfiction with his outstanding history of the Mafia in New York City. Combining the diligent research and analysis of a historian with the savvy of a beat journalist who has extensive inside sources, the author succeeds at an ambitious task by rendering the byzantine history of New York's five families—Bonanno, Colombo, Gambino, Genovese and Lucchese—easily comprehensible to any lay reader. Of necessity, Raab also illuminates the Mafia's origin in 19th-century Sicily and its transition to this country. Throughout his survey of the mob's evolution—from simple protection rackets to pump-and-dump stock schemes—Raab renders the mobsters (including men less well known than John Gotti, but no less significant) as three-dimensional figures, without glossing over their vicious crimes and their impact on honest citizens. Law enforcement's varying responses as well as society's view of gangsters enrich the narrative, which merits comparison with the classic true-crime writing of Kurt Eichenwald. While Raab surprisingly gives short shrift to the 1980s pizza connection case, which revealed the growing influence of the Sicilian Mafia on America's heroin trade, he otherwise demonstrates mastery of his subject. This masterpiece stands an excellent chance of becoming a bestseller with crossover appeal beyond devoted watchers of *The Sopranos*. 24 pages of b&w photos not seen by PW. (Sept.)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist

Beginning with its 1931 organization into five gangs, the history of the Sicilian Mob in New York unfolds in

Raab's riveting reportage. To be sure, that history has been explored in numerous books, but Raab drills deep into the investigations and trials that have taken place over the past 20 years. Until adoption of the RICO law (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations), mobsters weren't much bothered by law enforcement, Raab explains, before turning to a dramatic recounting of key investigations that led to RICO indictments. The narrative kicks into high gear as Raab describes how one leg-breaker or another, confronted on tape with his crimes, breaks the Mob's code of silence and starts singing for the feds. Eventually resulting in the imprisonment of all five godfathers of the recent past--"Gaspipe" Casso, Joe Massino, John Gotti, "Chin" Gigante, and Carmine Persico--these investigations solved a number of murders and exposed the Mob as never before. With vivid characterizations of a cavalcade of thugs, Raab's account is the most lively and informative Mafia history in years. *Gilbert Taylor*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Wing:

In other case, little men and women like to read book Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires. You can choose the best book if you appreciate reading a book. As long as we know about how is important any book Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, because from book you can know everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we could open a book or searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's learn.

Tom Seaman:

The book Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the great thing like a book Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires? A number of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim in which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely proper. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you can give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires has simple shape but you know: it has great and big function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by wide open and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

Stacey Williams:

This book untitled Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, here is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this book in the book store or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this reserve from your list.

Lori Whitten:

The book Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires will bring one to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to see, this book very suited to you. The book Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Download and Read Online Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab #8HIMGTU9NV0

Read Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab for online ebook

Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab books to read online.

Online Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab ebook PDF download

Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab Doc

Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab MobiPocket

Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires By Selwyn Raab EPub