

## Mafia

When you hear the word Mafia, you immediately think of the novel "The Godfather", by Mario Puzo. In fact, the Mafia originates not in America, but on the island of Sicily in Italy, where it holds its greatest power. Sicily is a strategically important island in the Mediterranean Sea, so its history has been very complicated. Underground forces were originally created to protect the people of Sicily against invaders. In the nineteenth century, when the European feudal system collapsed, the island fell into lawlessness; landlords began to extend their influence, collecting "taxes" from people in the areas they controlled using threats. Despite their abuse of power and illegal businesses, including extortion, smuggling, prostitution, and drug trafficking, these landlords protected the island and ensured a peaceful and stable life when the government did not.

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Conflicts between factions occurred quite often. Over time, however, the "family" organisational structure appeared in the form of alliances. The famous Cosa Nostra family was officially formed in the 1950s. Yet the Mafia's willingness to kill those who opposed it, including police and judges, has gradually lost it support and power among the people.

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Where did the Mafia originate?

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What event caused the Mafia to be created?

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How did the Mafia originally benefit the people?