

# Analyzing the Theoretical Views of Organized Crimes

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**Abstract:** *It is about three decades now that organized crime has been transformed into a great national concern for most countries, allocating a great part of confronting organizations potentials to itself; since surviving and durability of organized crimes depend on the two elements of corruption and general demands. In other words in supply and demand, although structure, individual motivation and collaboration among factors of organized crime guarantee the continuity and survival of organized, but indeed arresting and chasing the organized criminal groups members will not eliminate the criminal organizations, since other ambitious people are always ready to take the place of arrested and detained chiefs and wardens. Hence, the crime organizations are so much dynamic not to be eliminated by the attempts from the side of legislative law establishment. The present article is trying to eliminate the ambiguities regarding the nature and extensiveness of damages related to organized crime. The question here to ask is: "What applications may have theories in analyzing organized crime?" Accordingly, the theoretical arguments of criminology directly describing organized crime are hereby analyzed.*

**Keywords:** Theory, organized crime, theoretical views, criminology, criminal groups.

## 1. Introduction

For stable and strong foundations and roots, any science should regulate and establish its principles in precise, scientific and regular basis to be available for researchers and investigating people. In fact, transiting from complex stages of science requires going through the principles of knowledge, and with proper methods, this trend could release the curious mind of a researcher from the primary stages, conducting it towards scientific peaks and faraway horizons. The result of this potential investigation is the possibility of solving and responding to the problems. It can be said that the most difficult stage in accessing to any science is the stageto enter into it. This is why the most important part of the power spent by the researchers and specialists in most scientific fields is preparing and establishing the basis and providing the principles, to facilitate their transfer to the researchers, and bringing about proper and logical conceptions [3]. Since organized crime has taken enormous attention of the confronting organizations to itself and various theories are established for understanding the reasons of organized crime, in addition to describing and applying the theories in better recognition of organized crime, the author in this article is trying to investigate the subject from the viewpoints of important theorists. The theory may involve predictions or descriptions of different related concepts, definitions and offers that present systematic views of the phenomena, by defining the relations between variables, with the aim to explain the natural phenomena. Moreover, the systematic views include discussions, conversations, or inferences, predicting or analyzing the phenomenon occurred in the world. Theory operates as a tool, considering views about the criminal phenomenon [8]. Now, we look into the organized crime and such criminal phenomena to be followed by objective events, considering criminals and specific fields of studies. In case of focusing on the organized crime, we face two great problems, the first of which is the organized crime depending on the type of people's looks, having different natures, since researchers have different definitions about organized crime and since the extent of the characteristics of this type of crime is different. These types of crimes include

weak to precise hierarchical groups, economic trends to immoral commercial trends, and also from nations' controls to exclusiveness of distributing the goods and illegal services. The second problem that researchers face is limited access to information sources, while for instance studying street crime is possible due to easy access of the researchers to various methods. But, in many countries, the main source of information about organized crime is held by police and security forces [2]. However, the basis of controlling this type of crime is formed by recognition. Thus, two types of organized crime could be identifies: crime oriented places and markets; the first type considers illegal supply of goods and services to a specific group of people and the second type considers providing goods and services to the general public. These two types are practically combined in definitions and comprehensive views provided in organized crime [6]. Generally, the organized criminal groups are different with each other in their working methods and structures. Thus, it cannot be fought against them with unique approaches. Hence, it is quite vital for fighting against them that police and security organizations to exchange applies approaches and prevail cooperation culture and transfer of information [10], to overcome the stimulations by this type of crime via combining the information.

## 2. Thinking About Organized Crime

In the recent years, specialists believed that organized crime is an extensive growing threat for the security of modern community. The groups doing organized crime are not only challenging police, but they are also threats for the success of governments in controlling crime and also legitimacy aspects. Evaluation of the European Union about organized crime is as follows: The main threatening measures of organized criminal groups include firstly the existence of prominent obstacles in dissolving them due to their international influences and measures, and secondly their high influence in economy and community. The first criterion secures and immunizes these groups that is in contradiction with police efforts. The second criterion mixes

them with the legal world, providing negative effects on the attacking to these organized criminal groups, level of corruption and democratic dynamicity. Also, more deploying of the organized crime groups and their influence in the community causes the higher levels and classes of these groups to get popularity and their calling to the courts to be difficult [5], since undoubtedly, organizations in a criminal group will have savings, such as saving time for cooperation and gathering of group members, either in ascending or vertical orders or in horizontal order between the members. It also causes reduction in the required time for combining factors and elements in crimes. Moreover, organization could provide fame and popularity for a criminal group that will result in advantages for the group. With a horrifying fame, these groups could easily control their competitors and acquire credibility for themselves. Thus, the criminals use violence only as a tool for extorting and forcing their addressees to follow them. However, in addition for fame and popularity for an organization to be useful, they could also have disadvantages. For instance, fame (recognition as the element of organized crime) could pursue intensive collations by security forces and police, and could be hobbling for criminals, so that they could transfer their organizations to other places with great difficulties [9]. Lack of discovery and recognizing some crimes by police could be the result of organized crimes, since ordinary crimes are hardly hidden and police could track them easily. The other matter is higher rate of crime in a region that could be an evidence for organization of criminal actions.

### 3. Characteristics of Organized Criminals

According to Nilver (2002) and Rotter (1983), organized crime is generally defined by characteristics such as existence of hierarchy, organization settlement and participation in criminal acts with the aim to achieve financial benefits or power for the main members of the group [7]. But DippakGopta, John Horgan and Alex Schmitt (2009) believe that the characteristics of organized criminals could be regarded as follows:

- 1) Players of organized crime are usually conservative; they incline to resist against political transformations and search for disciplinary and stability conditions being more efficient for their economic activities.
- 2) Motivation of most criminal groups includes procuring personal or semi-public materials, such that advantages are divided among the main members of the group.
- 3) Criminal groups are naturally hideous, trying to be active in deeper levels of governmental establishments. Attracting the attention of the community is not their main motivation.
- 4) An organized crime group prefers to influence into political organizations with bribes and threats to be active in them. Thus, until the time that these groups are not directly targeted by governments, they try to improve the existing conditions.
- 5) Activities regarding organized crime are only aiming definite parts that are mainly in the community marginal sides.

### 4. Research on Organized Crime

One aim of the research is foreseeing the future events and transformations. Past events that are analyzed help the predicting people in analyzing their future actions in crime. A theory should include a definite set of connected concepts to determine the tools and define the problem. This matter is related to the organized crimes having continuity in themselves [9]. After analyzing a number of theories, it is clear that no theory on its own could consider views about the reasons of the existence of organized crime. Since corruption, political participation, illegal markets and cultural invasions, etc. intervene in the survival and growth of organized crime acting groups, but one of the serious ambiguities in studying organized crime is the state of emergence of criminal cooperation, its changes and also determining the relation of effective factors on emergence of crime. Accordingly and regarding the importance of theoretical frames in analyzing organized crime, different approaches are so far considered in this respect, including the approach by J. Albans who considered three hierarchical, supporting- customer and economic models, The organizational and bureaucratic nature of American criminal groups are considered in hierarchical models. Racial and local aspects of criminal actions in supporting-customer model and market priority in the economic model are considered as pressure tools on group structures [4].

### 5. Theatrical Views in the Domain of Organized Crime

Albans as a theorist in this field believes that organized crime should be defined in accordance with their activities. The newest typology that he presents about organized crime includes activities or procuring illegal materials or services and misusing legal businesses. According to Albans, there are three factors justifying the existence of organized crime that include opportunity, criminal environment and specific access or skill.

- 1) The factor of opportunity includes economic, governmental, legal establishment changes and social or technological transformations. Economic factors include poverty, weak lifestyle, or demanding for an illegal product (regarding adequate supply of that specific product). Governmental conditions include weak governments that are not effectively capable of confronting with organized crime. The elements regarding legislative establishments include the cases about education levels, corruption and the rate of government interventions. Internal control includes failure in supervising the activity of an authority or evaluating the education level. Specialized level has a great role in ability or inability of organized crime for acquiring success. Social and technological changes such as globalization (unlimited journeys and communications) are also effective on organized crime activities. Ability to administer the operations of a criminal group from long distances or easy money transfer provides the growth of organized crimes.
- 2) Specific skills are required for benefiting from opportunities. Specialty in computer sciences, skills in smuggling, management skills and other technological

potentials provides the possibility for organized crime to grow the same as legal establishments and have more efficiencies. The countries with high level of education provide the knowledge and skills for organized crime.

- 3) The subject regarding includes the cases such as existence or non-existence of organized black markets in the country, existence of organized groups and presence of bands. In case of having various activities in criminal activities in a country or a legal domain, the existence of organized crime will be more possible [9].

## 6. Criminology Theories

Theories could help criminal researches. A theory is a systematic view of a phenomenon and describes it. By describing all the recognized cases about a concept (such as organized crime), theories help the working process, providing what is to be done in controlling the activities. Theories related to understanding and foreseeing the behavior of criminals in criminal networks and creation of opportunities in emergence of crime are investigated for this study. The most important theories in this regard, include concessions, foreigners' collusion theory and logical selection theory.

- 1) According to Chang et al, traditionally, a criminal organization is considered as a limited company and the theory of "concession" is mainly used for analyzing organized crime. The exclusive model indicates that potential crimes have no opportunities and should be attached to the criminal organization.
- 2) The theory of foreigners' collusion condemns foreigners and outside effects about the extensive aspects of organized crime in American community. Nasty images of various sentences such as "dude foreigners" standing in shadow with a gun in silence are in conformity with the considered theory. Organized crime (MAFIA) obtained a prominent importance in accordance with the foreigners' collusion theory in 1860s in Sicily. The immigrants from Sicily were also considered responsible for establishing organized crime in the U.S.A. they were from 25 organizations or families under the influence of Italian people [8].
- 3) The theory of "transplantation- of crime" was presented by Federico Varese, indicating the capability of a Mafia group for preserving their criminal operations for more than a period and outside the region. What Varese inferred in 2011 in his book "Mafia people" was that Triads from Hong Kong were defeated in their attempts in connecting that land to China for two main reasons. For the first time, local gangster groups that were formed by the corrupted governmental authorities and controlled underground criminals established a small area for the Triads' activities. Secondly, the corrupted governmental authorities, especially police officers, were transformed into powerful guards for local crime unions and their benefits [6].
- 4) According to the theory of logical selection, criminals try to select doing or not doing the criminal act, based on advantages and predicted opportunities. This theory expresses that case of an assumed or real opportunities, any criminal person may commit the crime. It is to note that logical selection theory states that when a danger is threatening, or when no adequate advantage exists for

criminal actions, people do not try to decide for committing the crime.

- 5) The theory of crime model indicates non-intermediation situations that crime is committed in. according to this theory, the possibility of committing crime is in places where there is an intervention between the activity space of the offenders and the areas of the activities of victims and potential targets. An individual area of activity is a place where the individual does his daily work, including places that he lives in, work or go to.
- 6) The theory of daily activities stresses on the state changes of criminal opportunities according to changes in behaviors in the community level, since the number of people leaving their homes to work is increased in recent years. Thus, protecting houses is reduced and opportunities for crimes, such as theft are increased. Moreover, by increasing the people working outside their houses, the number of potential victims (individuals), targets (vehicles) and crimes such as theft, sexual assaults and crimes related to vehicles is increased [1].

## 7. Conclusion

One of the crimes threatening the countries today is organized crime, since this crime is slowly eroding and moving on economic measures, up to the extent that security crimes are somewhat negligible in comparison to them [3]. The phrase of organized crime may unwisely take us to the direction that these crimes are fixed actions committed by specific people and in a rather stable frame. But, as it was earlier stated in risk analysis, the word "dynamic" was used for organized crime that indicates the dynamicity of activities and inter-organizational relations among the criminals. Many specialists believe that globalization could to a great extent prevent organized crime or minimize it. Today, the values and credibility of performed evaluations on organized crime are entangled with globalization phenomenon. Some reports indicate that globalization deteriorates crime conditions. They state that this phenomenon facilitates the formation of gangs and different criminal organizations. But, we believe it does not. Globalization makes the occurrence of crimes more difficult. For example, people use credit cards instead of carrying money, and despite frauds from using these cards, the knowledge of people from pins and chips has increased the safety of these cards. Or, for instance, if according to the people opposing globalization who believe that separation of countries reduces crime, we should have observed lack of heroin existence in Australia that is separated from other continent, but it is not so!

Hence, to end the activities of criminal organizations, we should always remember some complexities (such as entangling the benefits of criminal organizations). Moreover, when we pay attention to the affairs of the countries that want apparently fight against organized crime, we can observe that they have ignored some criteria of organized crime, the reason of that being the political-economic benefits of these countries and the result of this approach is nothing but reducing encounters [4], since confronting with organized crime is difficult. The rates of organization of these crimes and the hierarchical nature of criminal groups have affected practical and academic discourse. It seems that

committing organized crime is increasing [2]. According to the above points and the estimations in this regard, it can be said the economy of these countries are annually affected by loss of millions of dollars, due to these organized crimes.

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