

Routledge Handbook of Transnational Organized Crime

Felia Allum, Stan Gilmore, Routledge, 2015, 711 Third Avenue, New York, NY, 10017, 550 pp., paperback, ISBN 9781138909441, \$56.82

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About the book author

Felia Allum serves as the politics section coordinator at the University of Bath, UK. Her research focuses on the relationship between organized crime and politics. She has published numerous books on the topic including ‘Camorristi’, ‘Politicians’, and ‘Businessmen: The Transformation of Organized Crime in Post-war Naples.’ Allum is also the co-founder of the European Consortium of Political Research Standing Group on Organized Crime. Co-author Stan Gilmore is a Detective Chief Inspector with Thames Valley Police, UK, and is a major crime Senior Investigating Officer. He acts as the force’s Lead Officer for kidnap and extortion investigations for the southeast of England. He is a scholar of criminology and criminal justice with interests in transnational organized crime, policing, and ethics. His published works include ‘Why We Trussed the Police: Police Governance and the Problem of Trust,’ ‘Zero Tolerance Policing,’ and ‘Understanding Organized Crime: A Local Perspective.’

Contributions of the Book

The Routledge Handbook of Transnational Organized Crime is a universal overview of transnational organized crime (TOC). The authors discuss the theories, laws, origins, evolution, impact, governance, and future of the TOC world. The handbook attempts to explain how TOC has always existed but has profoundly increased because of globalization. It also describes various categories of organized crime and the types of criminals that contribute to its pandemonium. The Handbook presents modern discussions on these subjects of TOC while also describing other recent and on-going features.

The first four chapters of the Routledge Handbook are dedicated to defining TOC and expanding its coordinating theories, concepts, and laws. Although the authors do an acceptable job of describing what constitutes TOC, they reveal that there is not yet an agreed upon definition, per say. The next six chapters reveal the origins and manifestations of TOC in Europe, America, Russia, Nigeria, and several countries along the Pacific Rim. The authors chose these locations because they appear to be the largest contributors to the TOC pandemic. The handbook’s following seven chapters reveal the contribution of geography to the practice of TOC, the evolution of international crime, and the necessary response needed to effectively combat it. The ensuing six chapters discuss the meaning of global village; the power of media reporting; ethnicity, migration, and women involvement in relation to TOC, and TOC culture as an industry. Part five of the handbook consists of eight chapters concerning the governance of TOC. The final six chapters concentrate on the responses necessary to fight TOC now and in the future.

While the informational layout of the handbook is logical, the readability can be difficult at times. The reader should have an advanced vocabulary to successfully navigate this text. With that being said, the contributors have successfully produced an abundance of TOC information that affirms its logic and validity. The structural organization of the handbook is functional; it starts at the origin of TOC and concludes with insights toward the future. Each topic builds on the previous one, and it flows in an organized and practical manner. The writing technique used is both inductive and deductive in nature. Topics range from general to specific and vice versa. Common topics are expounded upon and detailed information is explained with examples.

The Routledge Handbook of Transnational Organized Crime contributes to modern literature by shedding light on a relevant topic. Anyone who has been or will be affected by organized crime can benefit from the information in this book. It also provides academic advantages in the criminal justice field. All majors in this discipline will benefit from the acquisition and maintenance of the knowledge found within. This book provides detailed and revelatory intelligence, specifically of the organized crime world. The authors' passion about their respective fields is palpable throughout the pages of the text. They reveal the importance of being aware of and knowing the tools necessary to combat TOC. The information is exhaustively thorough. At times, the specifics become tedious and the reader may lose focus on the importance of a topic. However, the organizational method of the written material is verification of the erudition and professionalism of its contributors.

Overall, the textual evidence found within the pages of the handbook is informative and enlightening. While some of the vocabulary may be unfamiliar, it affords the opportunity to educate the reader further in that capacity. TOC is a very real problem and, for that reason alone, this book is worthy of reading. The influences from multidisciplinary contributors make the Routledge Handbook of Transnational Organized Crime a mandatory addition to any criminal justice scholar's library.