



A NEW GODFATHER FOR LA COSA NOSTRA: LUCKY LUCIANO AND THE COMMISSION, 1931

The 1920s were a very tumultuous time for organized crime in the USA. The decade started with the ratification of Prohibition and ended with the stock market crash. The years between these two events were littered with conflict over bootlegging and wars for influence within the big cities around the country, as Prohibition made life exciting for criminals while mafia crackdowns in Italy saw a massive wave of Italian immigrants with mafia ties land on these American shores.

A conflict began to brew between Giuseppe “Joe the Boss” Masseria, and Salvatore Maranzano, two who claimed the title capo di tutti capi, “boss of all bosses,” head of the La Cosa Nostra families in the US. In 1930 this conflict erupted into what is now known as the Castellammarese War. New York became a battlefield, with established leaders dying on both sides as the war shifted into a conflict for the very future of the mafia itself between the old guard “Mustache Petes” and the more Americanized “Young Turks.”

Both Masseria and Maranzano were classic Mustache Petes, and neither survived the war. Instead, the Young Turk Lucky Luciano successfully had both men killed, ushering in a new era for the mob. Luciano established a committee with the help of all the major bosses who survived the war, a committee of equals chaired by Luciano with the goal of preventing a single man from once again ruling or claiming to rule the entire mafia world.

This committee would hence be known as The Commission, and it would change everything about American crime.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

MOLLIE DAVIES

CHAIR

Mollie is a fourth year psychology major from (the seriously small town) Athens, Texas. She is excited to welcome delegates to the place which made her a fan of big city life, even if it lives up to its “windy” reputation. She has worked on ChoMUN committees for the past two years, as an EAC for Mitch Landrieu's NOLA (2010-2018) and an AC for the Cristero War, Mexico 1926. Outside of MUN, Mollie works in the Human Nature and Potentials Lab, a social psychology and developmental research lab on campus, where she studies existential meaning and development of meaningful concepts in children. When she is not working at her lab or studying in the library, Mollie can be spotted enjoying boba tea with her Pi Beta Phi sorority family, attending pole classes at the local studio, or walking her lovely cat, Cleo, around her apartment complex. She can't wait to meet all of you and hopes to help everyone have a super fun and successful ChoMUN experience! Please feel free to reach out with any questions to molliedavies@uchicago.edu.

TEDDY TODARO

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Teddy is a fourth year (wait woah when did this happen???) majoring in Sociology and minoring in Statistics. Born in New Orleans and raised in Baton Rouge, Teddy is a Louisiana boy through and through, even if he currently resides in Chicago. As a Louisiana boy, he will never stop gushing about how the 2019-20 LSU football team was THE SINGLE GREATEST COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM OF ALL TIME. At ChoMUN, Teddy has previously served as an Assistant Chair for A Little Bit Holy, Not at All Roman, and Not Yet an Empire: The Court of Maria Theresa, 1740 and twice as a Crisis Director, for The Midnight Nightingale: Bahadur Shah and the Last Days of the Mughal Empire, 1857 and for Mitchin' Ain't Easy: The Friends and Advisors of Mitch Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans 2010-2018. Teddy's primary hobbies revolve around watching sports, talking about sports, or playing sports video games. He is super excited to be running this committee on The Commission, and hopes everyone is ready to have a great time! If you have any questions about the committee, he can be found at theodore@uchicago.edu

HAYLEY NGUYEN

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Haley is a second-year physics major from San Diego, California. Many years ago, Haley decided on a life of crime as her backup career if being a quantum physicist doesn't work out. Haley has a soft spot for mafia committees. She was once an AC on a 1920s Chicago City Council Committee that was more or less a thinly-veiled mafia committee, and is overjoyed that ChoMUN is sponsoring her continued affiliation with La Cosa Nostra as a CD of the Commission. Last year in ChoMUN, Haley was an AC on the “City of Many Nations” Tangier committee. At UChicago, Haley can be found working in an optics lab on campus, doing events with her house, breaking into lecture halls to do the scratch work for her psets on blackboards, and spending hours at a time in the dining halls (very much talking, very little eating). In her free time, she likes to drink tea with her friends, explore Chicago's museum scene (the Art Institute is a favorite), thrift shop, and take walks (Haley is a notoriously fast walker). If you can't tell, Haley is very excited to be your CD, and looks forward to seeing how you respond to some of the most impactful events of the twentieth century from the unconventional perspective of organized crime. While she almost exclusively communicates in handmade postcards sent via the United States Postal Service, Haley will happily reply to emails sent to her at haleynguyen@uchicago.edu.

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

FIROUZ NIAZI, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL