

The gambino crime family history essay

[History](#)



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Kerry StaleyLewisAP U. S. History 2: Per. 1The Gambino Crime Family

The Event:

Lead by one of America's most successful and cunning Mafia bosses of all time, Carlo Gambino, the Gambino crime family thrived throughout the 1920's and still exists today. As one of the " five-families" of the mob in New York City, the Gambino family had a reputation as one of the richest and most powerful large-scale criminal organizations of all time based in the United States (Sifakis). With a working force of around 800 criminals and ranging from New York City to the boroughs of Atlantic City and from Sicily to Asia, the Gambino crime family's tentacles of control seemed unending (Sifakis). Focusing most of their business on the dark side of gambling in the 1920's, the Gambino family controlled many aspects of horse betting as well as the Italian lottery (Sifakis). Even though a lot of family money was made through dealings with gambling in the 1920's, the Gambino crime family also participated in other illegal activities such as: construction racketeering, bootlegging, pier thefts, extortion, loan sharking, prostitution, fraud, hijacking, money laundering, and fencing (Davis). However, before we go into any more specifics about the Gambino crime family, we need to analyze the history of its leaders and the origins of the gang that led to the buildup of one of the " five families" of New York City. Carlo GambinoA series of monarchs ruled over the Gambino crime family before it was ever really considered " the Gambino crime family", including men like: Vincent Mangano, Albert Anastasia, Carlo Gambino (for which the gang was named after), and John Gotti (Davis). Originally hailing from the archaic Italian cities of Naples and Palermo, the roots of the Gambino gang come from two

separate brotherhoods. Most of " societies" started up due the economic crisis Italy found itself in during the early 1900's, work was scarce and men needed to provide for themselves and their families, leading to the creation of gangs (Davis). Flashing forward a couple of years into the 1920's, Italy was in even worse shape than before, falling into an almost anarchist-like form of self-government amongst the people after WWI, which in turn established a sense of mistrust with any kind of legal authority (especially among Southern Italians) (Davis). Two of the biggest gangs in Italy were a product of the economic downfall, they were known as the La Camorra and La Mafia (Honored Society); the two gangs merged over time and became one of the largest and most important of gangs in Italy. And though the gang found its roots in Italy, the Gambino crime family's true legacy was to be made in New York City, United States of America where it would receive the title of " Gambino" under one of its most influential bosses, Carlo Gambino (Davis). [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/62/Carlo_Gambino.jpg/200px-](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/62/Carlo_Gambino.jpg/200px-Carlo_Gambino.jpg)

[Carlo_Gambino.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/62/Carlo_Gambino.jpg/200px-Carlo_Gambino.jpg) Carlo Gambino hailed from a rather powerful family in Italy when he immigrated to America, retaining his many connections to La Mafia (Honored Society) back home (Davis). Carrying over his connections, when Gambino arrived (he was actually smuggled into the city) in New York City he was well received among his Castellano relatives that resided in Brooklyn (Davis). Gambino never did become an official U. S. citizen, his nationality remaining purely Italian throughout his life in New York City due to his connections and hefty bribes (Davis). Thanks to Carlo Gambino's family influence, he was brought up to the big leagues of the underworld quickly and quietly, meeting and greeting with the top bosses of the NYC <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

within the first year he was in New York (Davis). In addition, due to the passing of the Prohibition Act and the Roaring Twenties, New York City had adopted a free-for-all attitude towards the world, taking on the phrase "Anything goes" as the creed of the time (Davis). These new developments created the perfect atmosphere for organized crime to grow and prosper, and it was exactly what the soon-to-be Gambino family needed to build its reputation. Joe "The Boss" Masseria Carlo Gambino was noticed early on in his career with the underworld by one of the biggest dons of the time, Joe "The Boss" Masseria (Davis). Receiving numerous jobs in the illegal liquor trade, Gambino gained first-hand experience in bootlegging business while earning himself a first-class reputation amongst the rest of the underworld (Davis). Gambino was taught how to brew moonshine, transport Caribbean rum to and from Long Beach Island by speedboat, as well as "kindly" convince a customer to only buy from Masseria (Davis). All of the skills that Gambino learned under the wing of Masseria contributed greatly to the successes of the future Gambino family (Davis). Several other future players of the underworld honed their skills under the hand of Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano, including: Frank Costello, Joe Adonis, Vito Genovese, and Lucky Luciano; all leading up to the greatest successes in mobster history (Corrina). http://image2.findagrave.com/photos/250/photos/2005/179/5136_112010570636.jpg

Vincent Mangano

Jumping forward to 1931, two of the most influential bosses in New York City had been assassinated in the previous Mafia war named the Castellammarese War; Joe "The Boss" Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano had been rid of for good, leaving room for other families and bosses to take over (Davis). Meanwhile, Carlo Gambino was now a part of the Mangano <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

family that ruled over the Brooklyn waterfront after the Castellammarse War had subsided. Soon after everything had settled down, Vince Mangona, the current boss of the family, named Gambino as a caporegime (a high-ranking member) with his own crew of "soldiers" (Davis; Capeci). Already familiar with the liquor business of the underworld thanks to Masseria, Carlo Gambino was named head of Mangano's liquor trade in which he managed all aspects of the branch (Corrina). Playing the market right, Gambino had rightly predicted that even after Prohibition was repealed, there would still be a high demand for high-proof liquor, so instead of letting go of moon shining like many of the other families, he bought stills throughout the New England area, thus creating a virtual monopoly on the illegal liquor trade of the underworld (Davis). Moreover, when Prohibition was repealed in 1933, Gambino reaped huge profits for Mangano by producing high-proof liquors and whiskeys that sold over the black-market at significantly lower prices when compared to the legal market value (Davis). The reason why Carlo Gambino could afford to sell the liquor at such low prices was due to his quick thinking and the monopolization of almost all the brewery stills in New England (Davis). http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/2/24/Vincent_mangano.jpgIn another one of his moneymaking ventures, Carlo Gambino succeeded in the act of buying ration stamps from corrupt OPA officers (The Great Depression and ration stamps) and selling them back to distributors for enormous margins of profit (Davis). After his two great successes were secured and had earned him an immense, steady income, Gambino felt safe enough to invest on other trades (Davis). Whether legal or illegal, Gambino became a part of businesses ranging from meat markets to fat-rendering companies, easily earning him <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

millions of dollars a year while he was still considered an illegal alien to the country (Davis). All of his successes were leading Carlo Gambino closer and closer to his eventual kingdom in the foreseeable future in which he was the boss of one of New York City's more influential crime families of all time (Sifakis). By adding the money of ration stamps to his strong illegal liquor production and trade, Gambino had reaped huge amounts of money for the Mangano family, the very same family that would later be renamed as the Gambino family when Carlo Gambino took over (Davis). However, before Carlo Gambino could seize the throne of the Mangano family, he had to be patient and wait because there was already another man ahead of him, Albert Anastasia (Rossi). Anastasia was Vince Mangona's underboss and muscle on the waterfront, but Anastasia was also much more than just Mangona's underboss, he was also a co-boss of an organization called Murder Incorporated (Rossi). Murder Incorporated was an organization created by none other than Lucky Luciano, a man known as the father of organized crime in New York City for splitting the city into five different Mafia houses (Rossi). The organization's purpose was to conduct hits on victims of a Mafia house's choice while making it impossible to link homicide back to any of the bosses; Murder Incorporated was commissioned for and completed around five-hundred kill contracts by the end of its life (Davis). Being a part of both Murder Incorporated and an underboss of the Mangano family, two of the most influential "establishments" at the time, made Albert Anastasia an incredibly powerful man (Davis). Anastasia's famous temper was a trademark of his, as well as his frequent homicidal tendencies, and his position on Murder Incorporated inflated his power and reputation even more (Corrina). By the time Murder Incorporated had been discovered and

<https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

disbanded, Albert Anastasia had walked away unscathed and was seen as one of the most feared men in all of New York City (Davis). Albert Anastasia's mounting power soon began to stress the relationship between him and his boss, Vince Mangona (Davis). Anastasia was never quite as fond of Mangona as he was of Frank Costello, so as Anastasia began to openly express his feelings about Mangona versus Costello, more and more tension began to build between the underboss and the boss (Davis). With help from his brother "Tough Tony" as well as Frank Costello, Albert Anastasia plotted against the current threat of the boss Vito Genovese, a man who had fled to Italy to avoid a murder charge against him after the Castellammarese War (Davis). After he had returned to America, Genovese's sole objective was to wrestle control of the family he and Costello had earned after the Castellammarese War out of Frank Costello's hands and directly into his (Davis). This led to the formation of a formal alliance between Frank Costello and Albert Anastasia, because Costello needed Anastasia's power to keep a firm grasp on the family, and Anastasia needed an ally (Davis). Once the Vito Genovese situation had subsided with Costello and Anastasia coming out as the obvious victors, Anastasia was confronted with a problem of his own (Davis). The relationship between Vince Mangano and Albert Anastasia had been full of tension for the past couple of years, but Anastasia's alliance with Costello finally broke Vince Mangano down (Davis). Supposedly plotting to assassinate Anastasia, Vince Mangano had unknowingly been put on Anastasia's hit list as the relationship between Mangano and Anastasia finally ended (Davis). It was on April 19, 1951 when Phil Mangano, Vince Mangano's brother, was found dead with three shots to his head in a marshland near Sheepshead Bay (Corrina).

Unsurprisingly enough, when the police attempted to contact Vince Mangano to notify him about his brother's death, Mangano was nowhere to be found (Davis). Finding the sudden murder and disappearance of both the Mangano brothers suspicious, the bosses of Manhattan sat down with Anastasia to figure out what had happened (Davis). At the meeting, Anastasia was accused of murdering Mangano, to which he defended himself by saying that Mangano had been plotting to assassinate him first; backed by Costello, Anastasia's claims sang true to the chairs of the meeting and Anastasia was named head of the Mangano family soon after (Davis). Taking over one of the most powerful families with the support of cunning, talented underbosses like Frank Scalise and Joe Adonis as well as the caporegime, Carlo Gambino, Albert Anastasia was in a good position towards becoming one of the most powerful men in New York City (Davis). <http://www.carpenoctem.tv/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/albert-anastasia.jpg> Vito Genovese Barbershop Hit - Assassination of Albert Anastasia With the rest of the Manganos of the Mangano family eliminated, there was no stopping Albert Anastasia and his hardy posse of Frank Scalise, Joe Adonis, and Carlo Gambino from absorbing the rackets formerly owned by Vince Mangano (Davis). Taking control of all the docks in New York City, the Anastasia crime family (formerly the Mangano crime family) controlled everything that came and went through the docks into New York City, providing unlimited opportunities to smuggle illicit materials into the NYC (Davis). However, with great amounts of power comes the unfortunate side-effect of a bloated ego, and that was exactly what happened to Albert Anastasia. Underestimating the ambition of other bosses as well as some of his own men below him, Anastasia wrote off any threats or hints of mutiny that came his way, <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

believing himself to be invincible (Corrina). Overzealous and greedy, Anastasia offended each one of the bosses during one of the largest Mafia conventions in Havana, Cuba, shocking the others with his outrageous demands and unwarranted greed (Davis). However, things went smoothly, despite Anastasia's arrogant and pompous attitude, and Anastasia remained head of the largest family in both Brooklyn and Manhattan (Davis). Though his prestigious position at head of the family was not to remain for long. At the top of his game, Anastasia's fortified empire began to slowly crumble beneath the mounting pile of problems that grew slowly until it was too much for Anastasia to handle (Davis). Frank Costello, one of Albert Anastasia's closest allies, found himself in the hands of the federal government, having been arrested for his crimes of the past (Davis). Now with his closest ally behind bars, Anastasia was beginning to feel the pressure of the hungry competition. He began throwing violent tantrums more often, he failed to conceal the fear he held in the face of Vito Genovese, and he ordered hits on innocent civilians that he witnessed on the news (Davis). Sensing Anastasia's panic, Genovese began to plot the demise of Costello, who had been released in October of 1953 and become "too hot" to keep alive, as well as Anastasia, and Frank Scalise, one of Anastasia's underbosses (Davis). Genovese spread the word that Anastasia and Scalise had been selling positions in the Mafia for an alleged \$50,000 per entry (Davis). Outraged, as originally the Mafia (also known as the Cosa Nostra) had been a closed organization, many of Genovese's allies unanimously agreed with the hit set on Anastasia and Scalise and pushed for the assassination to happen as soon as possible (Davis). The threats of assassination spooked Anastasia to the point of self-isolation, hiding himself

<https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

away in a super-fortified mansion over the Hudson River, Anastasia conducted business from his castle and rarely travelled into the city (Davis). With an inaccessible Anastasia, Vito Genovese went after Costello and Scalise instead, only Scalise's resulting in a successful hit while Costello's was a mere graze on the side of his scalp, though the failed assassination did send Costello into hiding (Davis). This was a direct blow to Anastasia, one of his best men had been eliminated and his best man sent into seclusion and semi-retirement after Genovese's failed hit(Davis). With Costello and Scalise dead and Joe Adonis deported, Genovese now had no one else to protect him (Corrina). Even his top moonshine man, Carlo Gambino, was no longer on Anastasia's side anymore, often meeting in secret with Vito Genovese, plotting the assassination of Anastasia so Gambino could claim the throne (Davis). Genovese had planted the idea in the ever-ambitious Carlo Gambino's mind that the only way to the top of the current Anastasia Empire was through the elimination of the head itself, Albert Anastasia (Sifakis). Coming to terms with the situation at hand and taking on Genovese's proposition and promise that he would be made head of the family after the death of Anastasia, Carlo Gambino scheduled a hit on Anastasia (Davis). It became known as the famous barbershop hit (Corrina). The assassination was completed by the Gallo brothers of the Profaci family, who Carlo Gambino had hired, and consisted of Anastasia walking into his favorite barbershop for a haircut and a shave, only to be shot five times in the back and head (Davis). Concluding the Anastasia reign over the family, Carlo Gambino was soon appointed as head of the family, which was renamed as the " Gambino" crime family now that it had switched hands, once again (Sifakis). [http://www. listzblog](http://www.listzblog).

<https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

<http://www.onewal.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderpictures/VitoGenovese5.jpg>
<http://www.onewal.com/pics/hit-anas.gif> Carlo Gambino and his crew were heading over to the big Mafia sit-down on November 14, 1957 after the assassination of Albert Anastasia, expecting Gambino to become the head of the Anastasia family as Vito Genovese had promised (Davis). However, before they could get straight to appointing Carlo Gambino as head of the Anastasia Empire, the sit-down had other various topics to address (Davis). Unfortunately, the Cosa Nostra meeting did not go as planned, and the police conducted a raid on the Barbara Estate that the meeting was being held (Davis). The storming of the Barbara Estate ruined all plans of a potential meeting and ended up with fifty-eight of the attendees in federal custody, Carlo Gambino and his men were sent home back to Brooklyn empty-handed (Davis). However, even though Vito Genovese's meeting at the Barbara Estate had failed, when he returned to his home in New York he called a quick meeting between the heads of the five families, hoping to continue on with the schedule that was going to be conducted at the Barbara Estate before the raid (Davis). Moving on quickly through all of the items on the schedule, Genovese convinced the others that the death of Anastasia was vital to the survival of the rest of the Mafia. Stating that Anastasia had become too reckless and too powerful, once he had persuaded all of the bosses, Genovese then appointed Carlo Gambino as head of the former Anastasia family, Gambino's name changed to Don Carlo in the underworld (Davis). Nelson Cantello
After his appointment of head of the Anastasia family, one of the largest families in New York, Gambino soon appointed his own underbosses and caporegimes, all leading up to the largest and most powerful families in New York City (Davis). Though Vito Genovese had so generously given Don Carlo his power, <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

Gambino never trusted him, Genovese was too powerful, too ambitious to put blind trust into, so soon after he was appointed as Don Carlo, Gambino began to plot against Genovese (Davis). At the meeting in New York, Genovese had stated that no one who was a part of the Mafia would get involved in international heroin trafficking because of the high risk that they would be caught by the federal government and bring the full wrath of the new Narcotics Control Act down upon the entire Cosa Nostra (Davis). However, Genovese had also claimed himself as boss of all the bosses in New York City, believing himself to be immune from his own restriction on drug trafficking (Davis). This led to his eventual downfall, because once Gambino knew about what Genovese was doing, he was quick to act. Paying off a man named Nelson Cantellops to testify against Genovese and claim that he saw Genovese buying thousands of pounds of heroin, Gambino successfully undermined Genovese's power from below, eventually sending Genovese to jail for fifteen years; Genovese died after ten years in federal imprisonment (Davis). Gambino also dealt with the problem of Anastasia loyalists quickly and quietly. Ordering two hits, one on John Robilotto and the other on Armand Rava, Gambino successfully eliminated any other threats aimed at his position (Sifakis). Now with Vito Genovese out of the way and the rest of the Anastasia loyalists out of the way, Don Carlo was now free to expand his empire as far as he could imagine, no longer hindered by the restrictions of competition, Gambino continued his reign for fifteen years with no interference (Davis). <http://www.mobbedup.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Mike-Coppola.jpg>. Edgar Hoover - FBI Director Unfortunately, Carlo Gambino came into the power at around the same time President John F. Kennedy came into office, and with JFK came his <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

brother, Robert Kennedy, Attorney General of the United States government (Corrina). What was even worse for Gambino was the fact that Robert Kennedy's policy on organized crime was one of the toughest in American history, succeeding in cracking down on 121 mob defendants and convicting 73 of the said defendants within the first few months it was implemented (Davis). And by the end of 1962, nearly 350 mobsters had been indicted and 138 of them were convicted for their crimes committed (Davis). Kennedy had made a list of the most wanted Mafia bosses of all time, however, Gambino and his family never made it to the top, usually hanging around somewhere in the middle of the pack, the Gambinos kept a very low profile most of the time (Davis). That is, until April 1963, when a young Gambino family member assaulted an FBI agent while at the funeral of Carlo Gambino's most talented and valued financial advisor, Carmine Lombardozi (Davis). After the brutal beating of the federal agent who was carrying around a hidden camera, the FBI put an enormous amount of time and effort into surveillance of the Gambino family (Davis). And even though Carlo Gambino was identified as a target for the FBI to chase after, there was not that much attention paid to Gambino because of his decision to lay low and play the business underworld safe while the FBI was hot on him (Davis). Truth be told, the Gambino family probably would not have come under any serious fire if it had not been for the uncalled for assault on the FBI agent at Lombardozi's funeral in the spring of 1963 (Davis). Reasoning behind the fact that the FBI never did seriously pursue may be because Frank Costello, the Mafia's best fixer, had made a minor comeback after Genovese's death and was also a close ally of Carlo Gambino (Davis). It is believed by some people that J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI had been "fixed" by Costello through horse racing and <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

gambling money (Davis). Though it cannot be said for certain, there is strong evidence that supports this particular theory about why Hoover refused to acknowledge organized crime, staying true to his belief that it did not exist even when Robert Kennedy pushed him to go after certain targets, during his employment as director of the FBI (Davis). [http://1. bp. blogspot.com/_xEdRg-6CKJM/TA00KENJ4GI/AAAAAAAAAFQ/0cghSRllhpM/s1600/J-Edgar-Hoover. jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_xEdRg-6CKJM/TA00KENJ4GI/AAAAAAAAAFQ/0cghSRllhpM/s1600/J-Edgar-Hoover.jpg)

The Gambino family grew rapidly and soon grew to enormous proportions, consisting of around four thousand " employees", though they were really just associates who played a small part in the big picture of the Gambino family, with about less than four hundred of the four thousand employed listed as family members of the Gambino empire (Davis). The Gambino started out with the rackets in the New York bay areas, controlling shipping overseas and making a majority of their money from that business, since it was one of the most lucrative ones in the underworld (Davis). But as the Gambino family grew into an empire, they began to take over more than just the docks of NYC, Carlo Gambino weaseled his way into the airline cargo business of JFK Airport in Queens through his various connections and corruption of the union labors (Davis). However, control over cargo shipments that came and went from JFK Airport were not the only areas that Gambino controlled; he had footholds in almost every major business there was in New York, from meatpacking to furniture making, Gambino's empire had grown from just the docks of New York during Anastasia's reign, to an internationally known family (Davis). If there was one thing that was most surprising about Carlo Gambino was his personality and attitude towards the underworld and his family business (Davis). Calm, mild-mannered and polite, Gambino was hardly what was expected of a boss, adding in the fact that he <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

was the head of one of the largest and most successful families, it was a wonder how Gambino remained so level-headed (Davis). There was one more thing that separated Gambino from the rest of the Mafia bosses in New York and that was his habit of going around neighborhoods he controlled and mingling with the common people, granting favors and paying off debts for helpless widows and families (Davis). Gambino gained many followers who admired his actions of giving back to the community and his kindness to the people (Davis). Building up the family name not by muscling his way in and offending other bosses, Gambino preferred to use his mind and his cunning to make his way to the top of the underworld (Davis). John Gotti in his younger days

While Carlo Gambino was busy building up the Gambino crime family, a young man by the name of John Gotti Jr. was taken in as an apprentice by one of Gambino's caporegimes in 1966 (Davis). Growing up in the Italian slums of New York City with barely any food or clothes along with his seven other siblings made a hard childhood for John Gotti (Davis). A violent young boy, Gotti got into fights often with his classmates, once suspended for fracturing another boy's skull in a schoolyard fight, and aspired to be as great as his idol, Albert Anastasia (Davis). Starting out, Gotti was not very successful in his working with the Gambino family, often messing up simple operations and hijackings, his wife, Victoria DiGiorigo, eventually sued him for nonsupport of her and their four children (Davis). Sent to jail on numerous occasions due to his failure as a hijacker and burglar, Gotti was sent to Lewisburg prison in 1967 after failing to hijack two trucks from JFK airport where he met important people in the Mafia that, under normal circumstances, he would have never met in his lifetime (Davis). It was from those people like Carmine Galante, boss of the Bonnano

<https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

family, and Jimmy Hoffa that Gotti learned everything he needed to know about the Mafia and how to make it to the big leagues (Davis). In fact, Gotti formed a close alliance with Galante to the point where Galante even offered Gotti a position in his family, but Gotti was reminded that he belonged to Charlie Wagons Fatico and politely declined (Davis). <http://www.nndb.com/people/000/000025922/gotti-ms.gif>

James McBratney's

Assassination When Gotti was released from prison at age thirty-one, he got back with his twenty-nine year old wife, Victoria DiGiorgio with their four kids and intended to get back into the Mafia (Davis). Thanks to all the information he absorbed in Lewisburg, Gotti was at the top of his game and his crew-leader, Charlie Wagons Fatico, appointed him as head of all the gambling of the Gambino crime family (Davis). This was a big break for Gotti where he got to showcase his newly learned techniques at handling the job given to him, and he outshined all other crew-members under Charlie Wagons Fatico (Davis). Gotti became known for his vicious behavior and angle when it came to collecting from debtors, earning him the respect of many important figures in the Mafia, because everyone loves a man who brings in the money (Davis). In 1972, Gotti was promoted as acting boss of the Bergin crew after Fatico was convicted for loan sharking (Davis). However, even though he had been named as acting boss of the Bergin crew, Gotti's real chance at proving himself to the Gambino family and the underworld came when Carlo Gambino put out contract for the death of James McBratney after his Irish gang had kidnapped and killed Gambino's nephew (Davis). Three up-and-coming mobsters were assigned to the contract, one of which was John Gotti (Davis). The assassination was achieved, though it was a messy one (Davis). A struggle was involved and with many eye-witnesses, the three men killed <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

McBratney in plain sight with three shots to the head, later on after the assassination had been completed, one of the three men was killed outside of his apartment and Gotti was arrested, having been identified by one of the many eyewitnesses (Davis). Gotti was now in the hands of the Gambino attorneys, relying on them to figure a way to get him out of the long sentence for murder (Davis). <http://www.tropeamagazine.it/anastasia/salvatore/gottihit.jpg>

Carlo Gambino in his final days. Carlo Gambino had enjoyed a successful life in the Mafia but in 1970 his wife, Kathryn died of cancer in home on 2230 Ocean Parkway in Sheepshead Bay of Brooklyn (Davis). And as Gambino aged, the stressful work of being the boss of the largest and most lucrative families began to take a toll on his health (Davis). At the age of seventy, Gambino was still under pressure of the FBI and in 1972, the FBI redoubled their efforts to try to deport Gambino and send him back to Italy (Davis). By then, Carlo Gambino's heart had already begun to show signs of disease and failure and in 1976 after making plans for his cousin Paul Castellano (passing over Aniello Dellacroce, Gambino's underboss) to succeed him, Gambino suffered his final heart attack in his summer home at Massapequa, Long Island (Davis). The news of Gambino's death shook thousands of people, those people of the common folk who were entirely dependant on Gambino's handouts as well as those in the underworld (Davis). The world's most admirable and successful Don had finally been put to rest and now it was time for a new generation to take over (Davis). http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-80KnhwX4qUk/UP-yjU6kQLI/AAAAAAAAAH-U/A-8Dmkl7tyo/s1600/06+13621439_ori.jpg Paul Castellano took over the Gambino crime family after the death of Carlo Gambino and did so successfully, for the small amount of time he sat as boss of the family <https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

(Davis). Nicknamed " Big Paul", Castellano was a mobster through and through, but had acquired a sense of ultimate security during his time as Don of the Gambino family, but that may have been what led to his ultimate downfall (Davis). Castellano was seen as too trusting in the Mafia world and this major flaw in his character led to him brushing off any hints of mutiny by his underboss, Aniello Dellacroce (Sifakis). Dellacroce was supposed to originally be the Don of the Gambino family after the death of Don Carlo but had been passed over as Gambino chose to list his cousin Castellano as boss in an act of nepotisms (Davis). Angered that he had been passed over but swallowing his pride, Dellacroce followed Gambino's commands out of respect and sat back while Castellano took over the family business (Davis). But eventually Dellacroce had enough and formed an alliance with none other than John Gotti, one of the Gambino crime family's most successful caporegime (Davis). However, even though there was an alliance between Gotti and Dellacroce, Dellacroce refused to undermine Castellano out of respect for Carlo Gambino's wishes and pledged his loyalty to Castellano (Corrina). Aniello Dellacroce died at the age of seventy-one due to lung cancer which left the opportunity to move up wide open for the ever ambitious John Gotti (Corrina). Now that Gotti no longer had anymore hindrances, he took his chance to strike down Castellano and claim the throne of the Gambino family (Sifakis). Ordering a hit on Castellano on December 16, 1985, Gotti had Castellano assassinated on a sidewalk and took over the Gambino family once and for all (Sifakis). Last picture of John Gotti - 2001

The Gambino family had been growing and expanding constantly for the past fifty-four years and by the time John Gotti took over it had a basic monopoly of almost all of the enterprises in New York City, grossing at

<https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

least \$500 million dollars a year (Davis). Gotti ruled the Gambino family with an iron fist, vicious and unyielding as usual, the Gambino family continued to thrive under the rule of John Gotti but later faced problems when the United States government began to press charges against Gotti and the Gambino family in a rapid-fire succession (Davis). Nicknamed as " The Teflon Don", Gotti took on a newfound fame amongst both the public and the underworld as within the first few months he was Don he was the center of attention for three high-profile, federal lawsuits (Corrina). Gotti was acquitted for all three of the trials thanks to jury tampering by the Gambino family (Corrina). But in 1992, Gotti's luck with the law ran out when he was charged with the murder of five men, conspiracy to murder Gaetano " Corky" Vastola, illegal gambling, loansharking, obstruction of justice, as well as bribery and tax evasion (Corrina). The jury found Gotti guilty of all charges and John Gotti was sentenced to life imprisonment with no chance for parole as well as a \$250, 000 fine (Corrina). The end of The Teflon Don's regime had finally come. Gotti died due to reoccurring throat cancer at the age of sixty-one years old on June 10, 2002 (Corrina). No other New York families of the Mafia sent representatives to John Gotti's funeral as to spite his leadership and person in general (Corrina). http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/e/e9/Image-Bureau_of_Prisons_image_-_John_Gotti.jpg/220px-Image-Bureau_of_Prisons_image_-_John_Gotti.jpg

The end of the major Gambino bosses may have passed, with men like Vince Mangano, Albert Anastasia, Carlo Gambino and John Gotti all gone, but the Gambino crime family still lives on to this very day (Davis). Though their tentacles of power are certainly much less than what they were in the fifties, sixties and

seventies, the Gambinos still exist today and continue to hold their place in history as one of the greatest Mafia families of New York City.

Significance:

The Gambino crime family's significance on America today is huge when looked at from a historical point of view. They dominated the Mafia to such an extent that they owned all of New York City, taking on an airtight hold on most of the major industries of the time. The Gambino crime family affected the way the United States justice system works today, allowing no tampering or manipulation of juries or federal agents. It also opened up the eyes of both the United States government as well as the American people to the idea that if the circumstances are right and there is not any restrictions placed or enforcement of the law, groups of organized crime like the Mafia can literally own a city by its people and its businesses. The Gambino crime family changed the way the entire Mafia worked, they took on every major racketeering businesses and enterprises while absorbing other families as well. Intimidating those they needed to and befriending others, the Gambino crime family worked its way into the heart of the Mafia by controlling almost every aspect of New York City alone. They changed the way the Mafia went about doing its business, covering up the tracks and making sure no one could get caught, or if they got caught, they would be acquitted. Without the Gambino crime family, the Mafia would not be the sophisticated and complex system of organized crime was and still is today. Once the case of the Gambino crime family had been cracked open after the incarceration and death of John Gotti, the FBI finally got a glimpse into what the business of the Mafia was like and how they conducted their every day work. The Gambino

crime family affected the way the federal government deals with organized crime today, as the modern day United States government would never let the events of the fifties, sixties and seventies repeat itself. <http://xhsyoung.pbworks.com/f/1212462858/gambino-chart.gif>

What if No. 1:

What if the Mafia had never existed? Would another form of organized crime take the place of the Mafia in America instead? If the Mafia had never existed then the probability that another form of organized crime would have taken place is highly likely. Whether or not it would have come from some place like Ireland or China, the federal environment during the periods of the Mafia's most success was very lax about organized crime until around the end of the seventies. After the seventies, the FBI began to really crack down on the Mafia and shut down the amount of control it had over New York City. An Irish form of the Mafia probably would have erupted to greater extents than it did. Because there were in fact Irish gangs such as that of James McBratney, but the Irish gangs could never compete with the enormity and violence of the La Cosa Nostra (the Mafia). The Mafia owned nearly all of New York City and controlled other outside enterprises such as the international drug trafficking business even though it was risky to do so. The Irish gangs could have never competed with the big leagues of the Mafia because of all of the Mafia's connections within the government and the civilians of New York City. However, if the Mafia just disappeared, the emergence of the Irish gangs would have erupted like a volcano because of all the markets that would be freed for Irish domination. Because of the free-for-all atmosphere in New York in during the time period of the Mafia's greatest successes, it

<https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

would have been easy for the Irish gangs to grow and expand like the Italian Mafia had in the beginning when Italian immigrants came over to America.

What if No. 2:

What if Carlo Gambino had been killed prematurely before he ever got the chance to become Don Carlo of the Gambino crime family? Would the successes of the family, which would remain as the Anastasia family, ever live up to those of the Gambinos? The answer I have to that " what if" question would be no. And the reasoning behind my negative answer is because the leadership that Carlo Gambino provided for the Gambino crime family is what led to the ultimate success and complete control of New York City by the family. Without his cunning decisions and well-thought out actions to absorb and control certain industries at certain times, the Gambino crime family would have never prospered or reached its eventual potential. While Albert Anastasia was definitely clever, he was no match for Carlo Gambino whose soft-spoken, manipulative personality charmed the other bosses of the five families in New York City. While Carlo Gambino definitely had his enemies, a majority of his associates in the Mafia either admired him and considered him an ally, or were too afraid of his wrath to ever put forth any significant challenges. Carlo Gambino's primary enemy was the law, and even then the FBI had never really posed any serious threat towards Carlo Gambino and his family until the very end of his life when laws became more strict and the FBI started cracking down on the Mafia more seriously. The Anastasia family would have eventually fallen behind the other five families or would have been absorbed by another ambitious family because of the poor leadership skills Anastasia began to show towards the

end of his career. Relying entirely on his connections, Anastasia never had any backup plan if his allies turned on him or were eliminated. Therefore, the Gambino family / Anastasia family would have never lived up to the standards of greatness if Carlo Gambino had been assassinated and the family remain under the control of Albert Anastasia.

Summary:

I choose the Gambino crime family topic because I have always been interested in the topic of the Mafia ever since I watched the movie, The Godfather. After writing a report about the Gambino crime family, I learned a lot about the Mafia in general, as well as the Gambino crime family. I did not realize that the Mafia held so much power over New York City in the fifties, sixties and seventies until now. I had always believed that the Mafia was just a small organization of one family that terrorized small business owners and market keepers. Studying the Gambino crime family and learning all about their business and how much control they held over not only New York City, but places in other states as well really amazed me. The Mafia was, and still is today, a huge organization of terror and business mixed together. I also learned that the Gambino crime family still exists today in modern day America, which I thought was surprising because now all you hear about are the Mexican Cartels, you do not really hear much on the news about the Mafia. Overall I really enjoyed learning about the Gambino crime family and the Mafia, I guess if you want to move up in life you have to order a hit on a few people who get in the way.

Book Review:

The book I am reviewing today is *Mafia Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the Gambino Crime Family* by John H. Davis. This book was my main source and was extremely helpful when I was researching the Gambino crime family. Originally, I could not find any books that were based strictly around the Gambino crime family, a lot of the books that I found in the libraries were more vague and based around the Mafia in general instead of just the Gambino crime family. When I found this book I was doubtful because of my previous ventures at finding a book about the Gambinos. But I was wrong, *Mafia Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the Gambino Crime Family* is both informative and entertaining. The author, John H. Davis, describes the mobsters with an air of admiration and hits all the major points of interest for the Gambino crime family. Rarely going off in a tangent about something unrelated to the Gambino crime family, the book remains focused on the history of the Gambinos and how it came to be the great family it is today. Giving accurate, descriptive biographies of all of the important people of the Gambino crime family, including all of the major bosses, Vince Mangano, Albert Anastasia, Carlo Gambino and John Gotti, the book provides plenty of material on the Gambino family. Though some parts of the book could have been cut out, it is still very easy to identify the important parts of the history and the more frivolous parts. I would suggest this book to any future Apusher who writes about the Gambino crime family.

Works Cited
Capeci, Jerry. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Mafia*. Indianapolis, IN: Alpha, 2002. Print.
Corrina, Joseph. *Mobsters: A Who's Who of America's Most Notorious Criminals*. North Dighton, MA: World Publications Group, 2003. Print.
Davis, John H. *Mafia Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the Gambino Crime Family*. New
<https://assignbuster.com/the-gambino-crime-family-history-essay/>

York: HarperCollins, 1993. Print. Rossi, John. " Gambino." Crimemuseum. org. National Museum of Crime & Punishment, 5 June 2008. Web. 27 Mar. 2013. Sifakis, Carl. " Carlo Gambino & The Gambino Crime Family." The Mafia Encyclopedia. 2nd ed. New York: Checkmark, 1999. 146-48. Print.