

It is no secret who Luciano's connections were during this formative period of a national heroin ring in the United States. Luciano, his underboss Vito Genovese, and his lieutenant Frank Costello all attended the 1932 Democratic National Convention in Chicago as part of the Tammany Hall delegation to nominate Franklin Delano Roosevelt for President. Roosevelt was the Rockefeller family's heavily backed candidate. The Roosevelt family fortune was closely linked with that of the Rockefellers through interlocks in the Chemical Bank and Hanover Bank. The FDR administration marked a turning point in the Rockefeller family's political fortunes. By the time Roosevelt's regime drew to a close, the Rockefellers had become the leaders of capitalism and had secured for themselves permanent footholds in crucial departments of Federal government.

During this period, tens of thousands of Americans were turned into narcotics addicts for the first time through heroin produced by Tu Yueh-sheng's Shanghai gangsters and distributed by Frank Nitti and Lucky Luciano's mobs. When World War II and the Chinese Civil War brought relief to U.S. addicts by cutting off the supply, the newly formed OSS, acting as intelligence and executive arm of the Rockefeller-dominated New York financial community, decided to recruit a permanent reserve army of gangsters and addict zombies to use in enforcing the postwar Pax Americana.

IV. OSS REVIVES AND TRAINS THE SICILIAN MAFIA AS HEROIN SMUGGLERS

During the immediate postwar period, smuggling of "morphine base"--the poppy-flower derivative from which heroin is produced--proceeded from Turkey to heroin labs in Italy and thence to the United States. The key intermediary was the Sicilian Mafia, a gangster apparatus deliberately revived by the OSS for that purpose (among others) beginning in 1943. The Italian branch of the Mafia had been virtually suppressed by the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini during the 1920s. With Mussolini's Black Shirt thugs running Italy, the Italian bourgeoisie and landlords no longer needed Sicilian Mafiosi to help them terrorize workers and peasants, as they had in pre-fascist days. It was, however, precisely for this that the OSS did need the Mafia in the wake of the collapse of Mussolini's government and the fascist party after the spring 1943 mass strikes throughout northern Italy.

The Anglo-American generals, who had sat grinning as Hitler bled the Soviet Union to near death, now rushed to invade Italy to prevent the working class from destroying the remaining Nazi occupying divisions by themselves. Instead of invading Sardinia, which would have enabled the Allied forces to jump directly into Tuscany--dividing Nazi forces in half and linking up with partisan forces in Tuscany and the north--Sicily was invaded for the sole purpose of building up the Mafia there and throughout the south. This was so a "South Korean" solution could be imposed on Italy

if the working class got out of hand in the north. Cutthroats and bandits came down from the Sicilian hills wearing pins with the number "49" on their coats--Sicily was to become the newest State of the Union!

To build the Mafia up again from its virtually extinguished state, Mafia mayors such as Don Calogero Vizzini were installed by the OSS throughout Sicily. At the same time, the Anglo-American occupying generals sabotaged the resumption of agricultural production, making Italians dependent on the occupying army's breadlines or the outrageously priced U.S. Army-backed Mafia black market. Sicilian Mafioso chief Vizzini, for example, was given a Fiat truck and other equipment so that he could engage in smuggling. Other Mafiosi were given special U.S. Army identification papers which enabled them to come and go with impunity past the numerous military checkpoints in the occupied land.

With such assistance, the Mafia quickly built itself into a thriving smuggling operation at the expense of starving Italians and the U.S. working class, who were paying for the military depot supplies the Mafia smugglers "somehow" managed to obtain. An overzealous FBI agent who had caught Vito Genovese red-handed in this operation, complete with U.S. Army free-conduct papers (Genovese had fled from the United States to Italy in the middle 1930s), was removed from his post and transferred elsewhere.

It was through this black market operation that the OSS trained and equipped the Italian Mafia for its post-World War II career as heroin smugglers, skills they had never before had. This OSS-Italian Mafia "united front" had been prepared in advance by OSS agents who met regularly with leading U.S. Mafioso Charles "Lucky" Luciano, then in a New York State prison. In return for Luciano's personal arrangement for collaboration between the OSS and his Mafia friends in Sicily, the OSS moved him to cushy new prison quarters and let him run his gangster operations out of his jail cell. Luciano's visitors, in addition to various agents of the OSS, included such beneficial influences on his rehabilitation as Meyer Lansky, the Jewish hoodlum who had organized the "Castellamare" gangland bloodbath and who later organized the U.S. heroin syndicate with Luciano.

Lt. Governor Poletti Secretly Dispatched to Sicily

To prepare for the invasion, the former lieutenant governor of New York, Charles Poletti--a flunkey of the Rockefeller-allied Herbert Lehmann family, already notorious for the number of gangsters he had pardoned during his three weeks as surrogate New York governor--secretly landed off the west coast of Sicily along with other OSS agents and was hidden in the homes of Mafiosi. When Anglo-American forces subsequently landed in Sicily, Poletti was made military governor of the island. It was Poletti who boosted the moribund Mafia to a prestige such as it had never enjoyed in its century-and-a-half history.

As allied forces moved north, Poletti accompanied them as military governor of the continually expanding Anglo-American-occupied portion of Italy. At his headquarters near Naples, Poletti hired as his translator and liaison to the subject population Lucky Luciano's number two man, Vito Genovese, who had fled earlier to Italy to escape trial for murder in the United States. Once in Italy, Genovese became a leading contributor to the Fascist Party and confidant of Mussolini. Genovese passed directly from his intimacy with Mussolini to his top post with OSS "station chief" Charles Poletti.

The relationship between Poletti and Genovese was no ordinary employer-employee relationship, however. The car Poletti drove around Italy was a gift to him from Mafioso chieftain Genovese. Poletti on his part provided Genovese with the military papers which enabled him to make millions smuggling food between Naples and OSS Mayor Vizzini's operations in Sicily. Within a short period, the Mafia network established by the Rockefeller-linked Poletti was moving morphine base from Turkey to Italy and pure heroin from Italy to the United States. The ports used to get the Turkish morphine base ashore for refining from freighters bound westward through the Mediterranean were the same West Sicilian Mafia-controlled fishing villages that had been used to land OSS agents prior to Allied invasion of the island.

Luciano Deployed

To expand the Italian heroin network into a multicontinental operation, the OSS wanted the best in the profession. Lucky Luciano was quietly pardoned in 1946 by the very Rockefeller flunkie, Thomas Dewey, who had built his public career on the strength of having put Luciano in prison and (supposedly) thrown the key away (Luciano had another 30-40 years to serve). Along with a number of other imprisoned Mafiosi, Luciano was "punished" by being deported to Europe to build up the understaffed operations there. This was the essential link in the re-drugging of the U.S. after World War II, given the curtailment of the Chinese opium supply as a result of the Civil War there.

V. CIA OPENS MARSEILLES HEROIN FACTORIES

The CIA's ultimately successful efforts to turn Marseilles into a vast heroin refinery also date back to the 1943 period, although full-scale refining did not get underway until the early 1950s. The Corsican underworld of Marseilles had much to recommend it to the OSS and CIA operations men. The gangsters of "l'Union Corse," as it was called, had manufactured heroin and hired themselves out as hoodlum strikebreakers during the 1930s, following the Green Gang pattern. They had distinguished themselves as exceptionally zealous Nazi collaborators during the German occupation of France. Many a Marseilles Resistance organizer owed his arrest, torture, and execution to these Corsican thugs.