

COSA NOSTRA

MAFIA in Sicily

MAFIA – the name

Possible origin		
Language/Dialect:	Term:	Approximate meaning:
- Arabic	<i>maha</i> <i>mahyas</i> <i>mu'afa</i> <i>ma'afir</i> <i>marfud</i>	- quarry, cave - bold man, braggart, arrogant - safety, protection - Arab tribe that ruled Palermo - to reject, to refuse
- Greek	<i>morphe</i>	- beauty, strength
- Tuscan - Florentinian - Piedmontese	<i>malfuso</i> <i>maffia, mafia</i> <i>mafi, mafio, mafiun</i>	- infidel, miscreant, impious, scoundrel rogue - poverty, deprivation - little, badly shaped, disfigured - also: rude, rough, careless, stubbornly silent
- Sicilian	<i>mafiusu, marfusu</i> <i>maffie</i>	- arrogant, bully - also: bold, brave, courageous, handsome - name for quarries, caves (near Trapani and Marsala)
Incorrect explanations of the name as an acronym:		
	M.A.F.I.A	- Morte alla Francia Italia Anela
	M.A.F.I.A	- Mazzini Autorizza Furti Incendi Avvelenamenti
- all etymologies which posit a direct origin of <i>mafia</i> are uncertain - almost certainly is a late derivation from Sicilian dialect <i>mafiusu</i>		

Cosa Nostra – the name

Cosa nostra

vs

Cosa pubblica

Cosa nostra = Our thing

Uomo d' onore = Man of Honor

Cosa Nostra (the name in Sicily)

La Cosa Nostra (the name in USA)

Cosa pubblica = Public thing
Res Publica (Latin)
Repubblica (Italian)
Republic (English)

COSCA

- basic organization unit of *Cosa Nostra*

- secret, based on affiliation, not blood

- not a “family”: commonly and mistakenly used term

- name for artichoke's hearth in Sicilian dialect

Cosa Nostra - Pyramidal Organization

the "COSCA"

Boss
Capo

Advisor
Consigliere

Advisor
Consigliere

(Underboss)

Head of (10) Soldiers
Caporegime / Capodecina

Head of (10) Soldiers
Caporegime / Capodecina

Head of (10) Soldiers
Caporegime / Capodecina

Soldier Soldato Soldier Soldato Soldier Soldato Soldier Soldato Soldier Soldato Soldier Soldato Soldier Soldato Soldier Soldato Soldier Soldato

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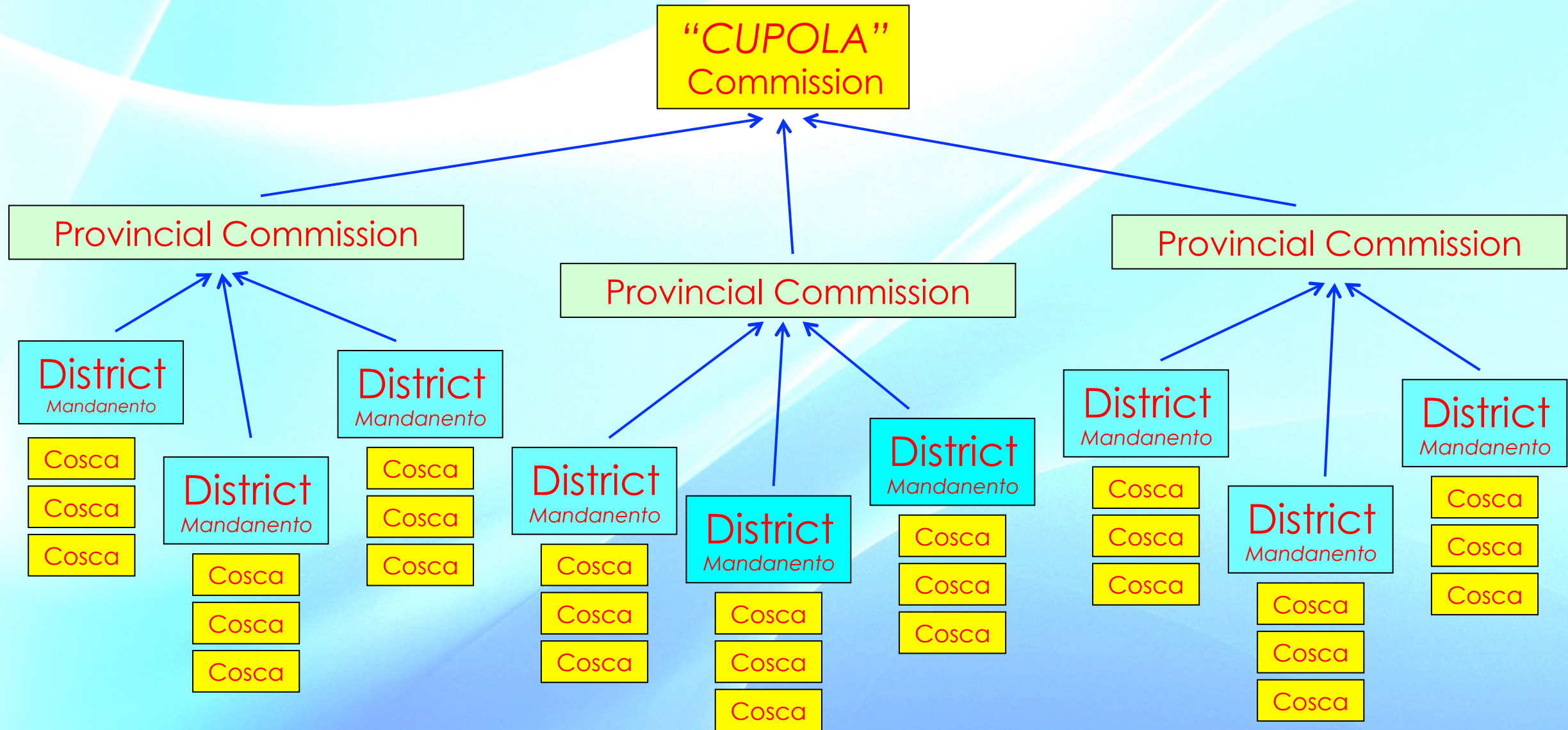
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Cosa Nostra - Territorial Organization



Omertà - from *umiltà*, humility

- silence (seeing nothing, hearing nothing, saying nothing)
- very powerful concept, mental frame, behavioral attitude
- present from old times in southern Italian society

- mafiosi are prodigiously good at keeping their mouth shut
- mafiosi prefer not to say anything
- mafiosi do not say or ask any more than they absolutely have to
- what mafiosi say is never idle chat
- mafiosi communicate in codes, hints, fragments of phrases, significant silences
- interpretation of signs, messages, gesture, and silences is one of the mafioso main activities

- when initiated a man of honor swears to keep absolute secret
- when initiated a man of honor swears never to lie to another man of honors
 - truth is a precious and dangerous commodity for mafiosi
 - there is an obligation to tell the truth, but there is also a great reserve
 - reserve, the things that are not said, rule like irrevocable curse over all mafiosi
 - a well-disguised lie can be a very powerful weapon
 - a mafioso lives in terror of being judged by internal malicious gossip
 - relationships are made profoundly false, and absurd
- repentance is rare among mafiosi

Cosa Nostra – Code of Honor

- honor is about loyalty and obedience

- the new loyalties of mafioso are more important than blood ties
- the interest of cosa nostra is above those of his kin

- honor accumulates through obedience
- nothing can be considered inherently dishonorable, including killing
- if the order is murdering women, children, relatives, it would be considered dishonorable not to obey

- mafiosi are obsessed with the rules of honor that limit their action
- the code of honor is much more than a list of rules
- becoming a man of honor means taking a whole new identity
- becoming a man of honor means entering a different moral universe
- a mafioso's honor is the mark of that new identity, that new moral sensibility

- entering the mafia is something similar to convert to a religion (be reborn)
- many mafiosi are believers
- leaving the mafia is not contemplated

Admission

- an aspiring mafioso is carefully watched, supervised, put to test
- committing murder is almost always a prerequisite for admission

Ritual

- the candidate holds a burning sacred picture (usually Madonna)
- while swearing allegiance and silence until death
- swears obedience, the first pillar of the code of honor
- the burning of a sacred image symbolizes his death as an ordinary man and his rebirth as a man of honor
- the initiation ritual shows that honor is a status that has to be earned

Mafia – Rooths 1870-1890



"The Sects" 1870 - 1890

Sect's name

Location

" Stoppaglieri "

Monreale

" Fratuzzi "

Bagheria

" Fontana Nuova "

Misilmeri

" Zubbio "

Villabate

Sect's name

Location

" Oblonica "

Agrigento

" Scattalora "

Sciacca

" Scaglione "

Castrogiovanni

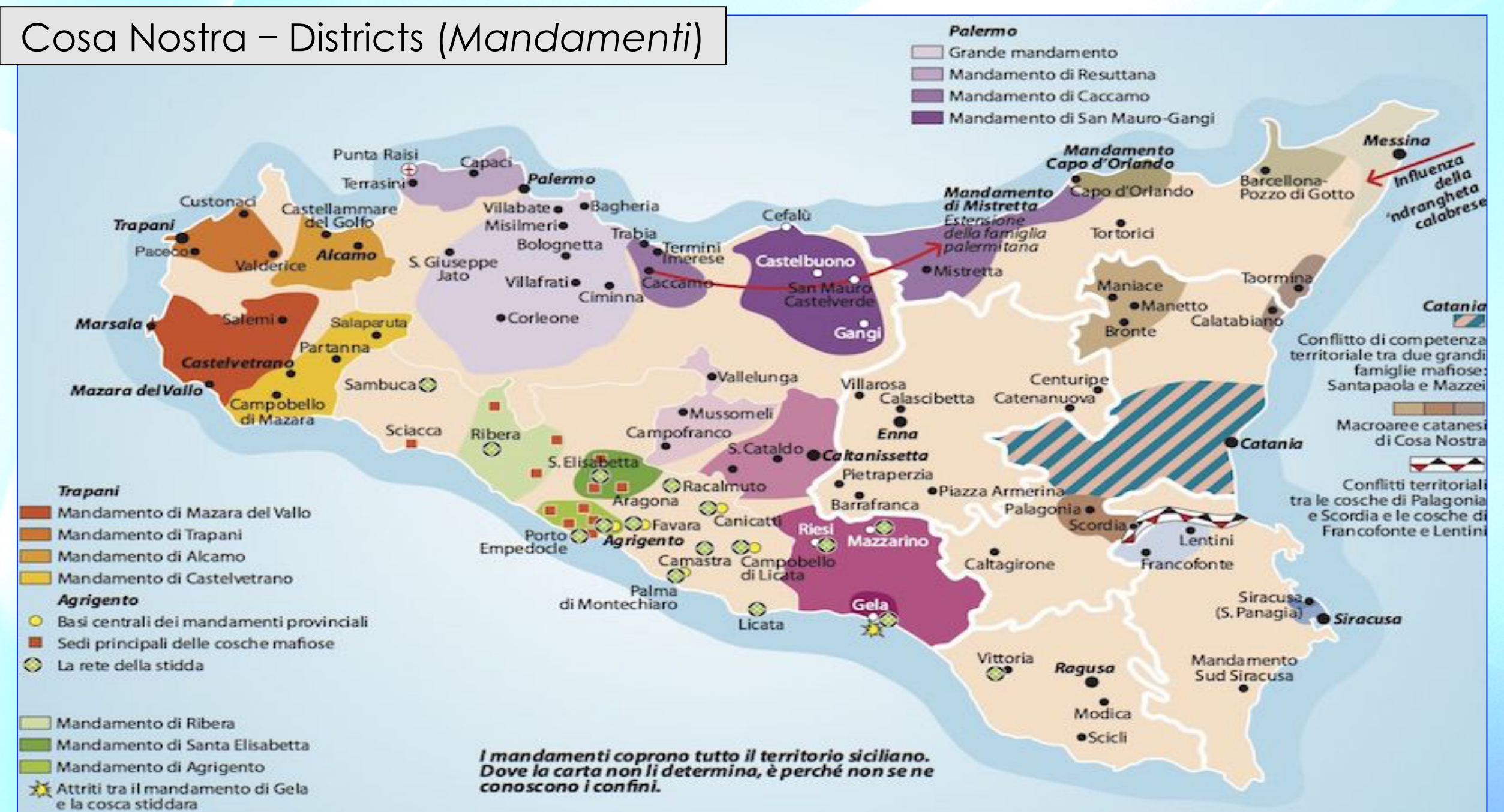
" Fratellanza "

Favara

Mafia - in 1900



Cosa Nostra – Districts (*Mandamenti*)



Cosa Nostra – Districts (Mandamenti)



Fonte: Dia - Direzione investigativa antimafia - gennaio - giugno 2017

Cosa Nostra – Stidda

PALERMO

Mandamenti in città

●●●●●●●● 8

Mandamenti in provincia

●●●●●●●● 7

78 famiglie

2.366 affiliati

36 scarcerazioni eccellenti negli ultimi 18 mesi

TRAPANI

Mandamenti in provincia

●●●●●● 4

17 famiglie

Il capo della provincia, Matteo Messina Denaro, latitante da 20 anni

AGRIGENTO

Mandamenti in città

●●●●●●●● 8

36 famiglie

L'ultimo capomafia riconosciuto, Leo Sutura, arrestato due anni fa. Scarcerati i vecchi boss della Stidda

Le organizzazioni sul territorio

- **STIDDA** (nelle province di Agrigento, Caltanissetta e Ragusa)
- La "TERZA MAFIA" di Gela (il clan di Giuseppe Alfieri, Peppe Ierri)
- La "TERZA MAFIA" di Scicli (il clan di Francesco Mormina)

CALTANISSETTA

Mandamenti in provincia

●●●●●● 4

15 famiglie

Patto fra Cosa nostra e Stidda per la spartizione di estorsioni e traffico di droga

ENNA

5 famiglie

Dopo i contrasti fra i vecchi ormai in carcere, nuovi emergenti al comando sostenuti dai clan catanesi

RAGUSA

Clan in città

●● 2

Emergenza Vittoria: patto fra Cosa nostra e Stidda per estorsioni e droga. A Comiso cresce la Stidda

SIRACUSA

Clan in città

●● 2

Clan in provincia

●●●●●●●● 7

Epicentro dell'emergenza mafia, Lentini. Due clan collegati con i catanesi per il racket delle estorsioni

MESSINA

Clan in città

●●●●●● 5

Clan in provincia

●●●●●●●● 6

Fascia tirrenica sotto l'influenza dei palermitani, la Jonica ha legami con Ndrangheta e Cosa nostra catanese

CATANIA

Clan in città

●●●●●●●● 7

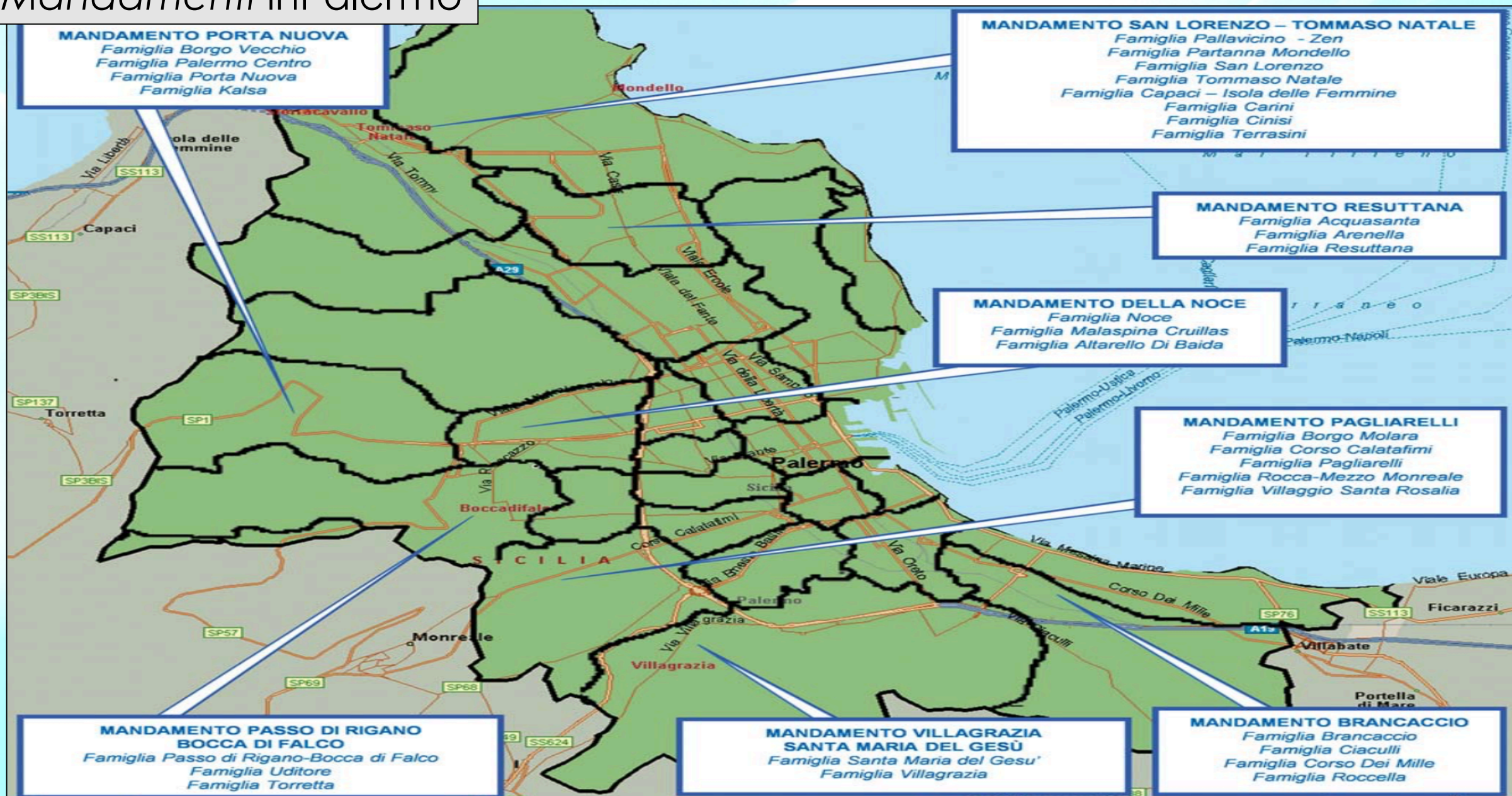
Clan in provincia

●●●●●●●● 7

Pax mafiosa fra i Santapaola e i Cappello dopo anni di tensioni, ma numerosi sequestri di armi negli ultimi mesi



Mandamenti in Palermo



Mandamenti in Palermo's Province



Mafia vs Organized Crime

“Mafia”

- an umbrella label, applies generically to organized crime:
 - Chinese Mafia, Japanese Mafia, Russian Mafia
 - Albanian Mafia, Chechen Mafia, Turkish Mafia
- only part of organized crime, is mafia crime, in Italy, USA, or elsewhere

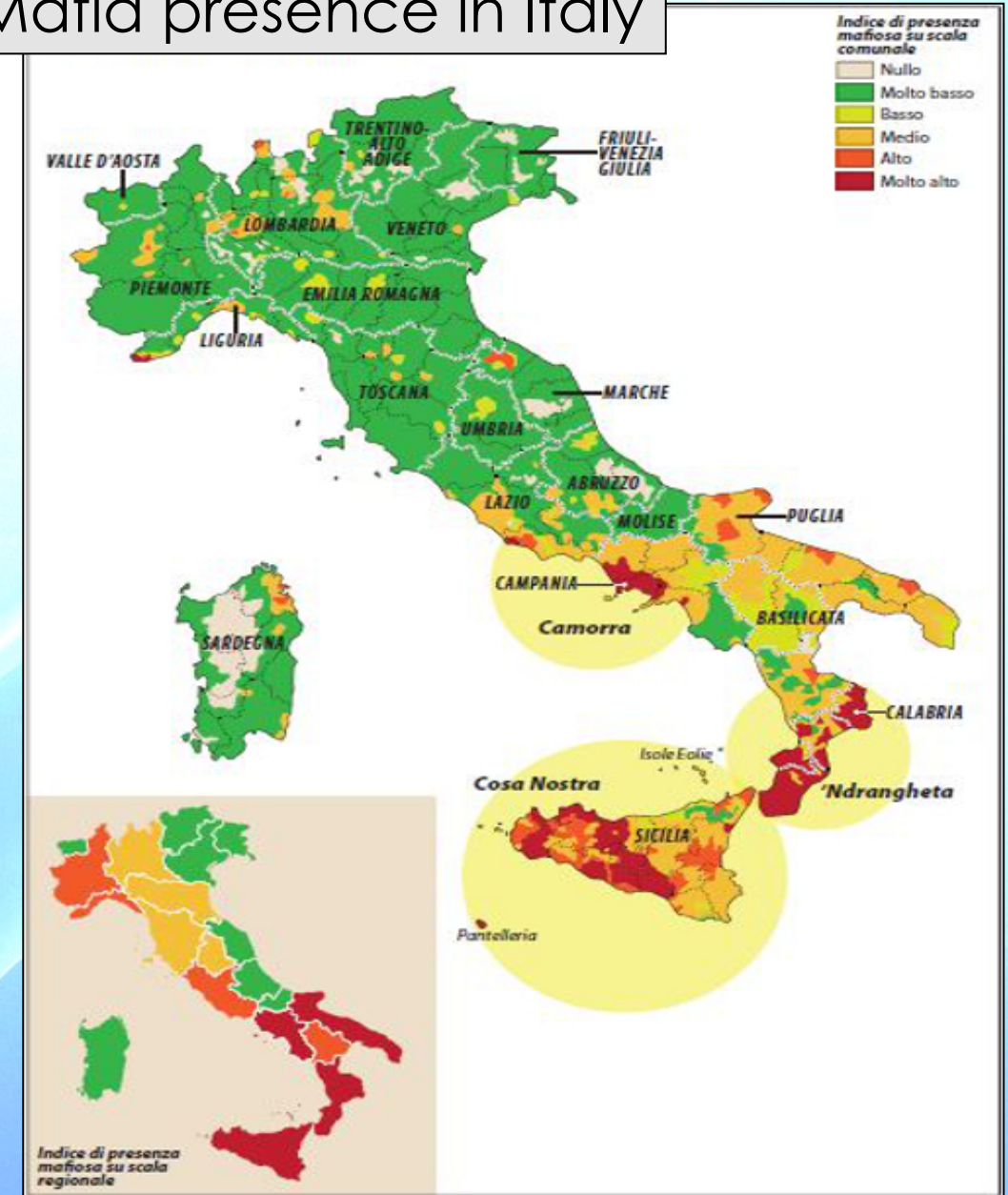
Mafias in Italy

- Cosa Nostra	Sicily	Palermo
- ‘Ndrangheta	Calabria	Catanzaro
- Camorra	Campania	Naples
- Sacra Corona Unita	Apulia	Bari

Mafia in Southern Italy



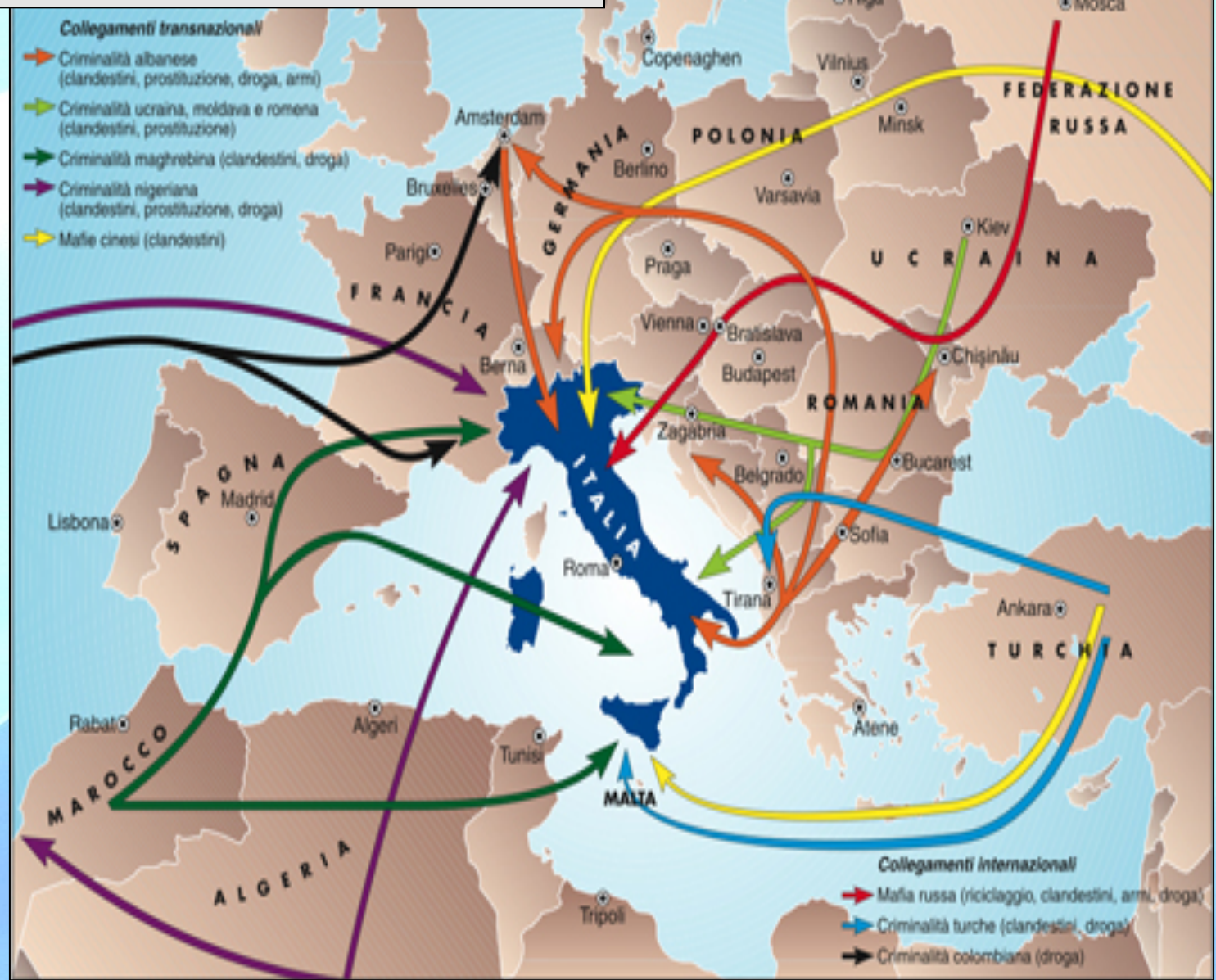
Mafia presence in Italy



Foreign mafias in Italy



Criminal flows to Italy



Cosa Nostra – MAXI TRIAL

Feb. 1986 – Dec. 1987

Bunker constructed into *Ucciardone* Prison, Palermo

Corleonesi in power:
Second Mafia War 1978-1984
Assassinated:

- B. Giuliano
- C. Terranova
- G. Costa
- P. Mattarella
- C. A. Dalla Chiesa
- P. La Torre

POOL ANTIMAFIA:

- A. Caponnetto
- G. Falcone
- P. Borsellino
- L. Guarnotta
- G. Di Lello
- R. Chinnici

(Founder, assassinated in 1983)

- 19 life sentences
- 360 condemned
- 114 acquitted
- 2,665 years of prison
- 11.5 bl lire in fines

Falcone Method

Buscetta Theorem

Boss M. Greco arrested

- 750,000 printed pages
- 3,000 police officers
- 600 journalists
- 900 witnesses
- 200 defense attorneys
- 16 popular judges
- 21 repented

Cosa Nostra – Terrorism 1992 - 1993

Acts

Palermo	Capaci	- bomb – 5 deaths, Falcone killed – damage
Palermo	Via d' Amelio	- bomb – 6 deaths, Borsellino killed - damage
Milan	National Modern Art Gallery	- bomb – 5 deaths, dozens injured - damage
Florence	Uffizzi National Art Gallery	- bomb – 5 deaths, 48 injured - damage
Rome	S. Giovanni in Lateran Church	- bomb - damage
Rome	S. Giorgio in Velabro Church	- bomb - damage
Rome	M. Costanzo (<i>journalist</i>) Residence	- bomb - damage
Rome	City Olympic Stadium	- bomb - no damage - bomb unexploded

Motivations

Corleonesi's Reaction to Art. 41bis

Corleonesi's determination to maintain leadership within Cosa Nostra

The Roman Catholic Church had abrogated an unwritten hands-off policy toward traditional mafia in S. Italy

Cosa Nostra – Early documentation

Anonymous, <i>The Maffiusi of Vicaria Prison</i> , 1863	- a play in Sicilian dialect about the life of inmates
Baron Turrisi Colonna, <i>Public Security in Sicily</i> , 1864	- the first ever study of mafia
Filippo Gualtieri (Prefect of Palermo), <i>Report</i> , 1865	- first official use of the term mafia
Dr. Galati, <i>Memorandum</i> , 1875	- revealed mafia as a secret organization
L. Franchetti, S. Sonnino, <i>Sicily in 1876</i>	- analysis of political conditions and peasants
P. Mascagni, <i>Rustic Chivalry</i> (<i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i>), 1890	- an opera presenting a myth about Sicily and the mafia
A. Nocifero, <i>Contemporary Barbarian Italy</i> , 1897	- pejorative coloring to commonplaces about the Sicilian psyche
Sangiorgi, <i>Report</i> , 1900	- first official police report on mafia in Sicily

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