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Paving the Way for a New World Order: The Russian and Japanese Cartels

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Dedication

I would like to devote this work to my dearest family, my precious parents and dear siblings.

I would also like to dedicate it to my beloved friends.

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Abstract

The upsurge of organized crime and the coming of the post cold era transformed the face of the earth. Accordingly, this research paper tends to analyse the events prior and post-cold war in relation to the Japanese and Russian Cartels in a world witnessed two world wars and a psychological war that shaped the world known today. The first chapter of this work is concerned with major historical events which occurred before the fall of the Berlin wall, including the two major world wars, the Cold War, as well as the outcomes of such calamities after their end. In the second chapter, on the other hand; one attempts to tackle the rise of organized crime within the new world order, and majorly the effects of such a phenomenon, specifically the case of the Russian and Japanese Cartels. Moreover, this analytical work resorts into the conclusion that the Russian and Japanese Mafias, indeed, had their own share into reshaping the world, by having impactful influences on the world along various domains.

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General Introduction

The arrival of the 20th century brought with it two lengthy and costly wars, known by their catastrophic effects on humanity. Even though, the first war was thought to be the key to close the door for more wars, unexpectedly it was followed by a more horrific one. Then they were followed by an intense psychological war between the Soviet Union and the United States. Two imperium poles determined to take the lead of the world, one communist, while the other capitalist. The end of their dispute was met by various changes, including the rise of organized crime.

This phenomenon referred to as organized crime, infected the world since the end of the cold war and continuous to till nowadays with having various effects. On that note, some major questions are to be proposed concerning the role and the impact of organized crime specifically the case of the Russian and Japanese ones on the New World Order, whereby such queries are put forward:

- What kind of impact does organized crime exert on the New World Order.?
- Does the Russian and Japanese Mafia, have a strong influence on the New World Order?
- -What are the major domains affected by the Russian and Japanese Mafias?

In order to answer these questions, it is necessary to investigate and inspect the world history and the shift in power and influence in order to reach a proper response.

For that, two chapters are employed, in the first chapter, one attempts to delve into the History of the world specifically during the 20th century. It deals with the origins, participants and the trigger of the wars, accompanied with the outcomes of both the first and second world wars, on the world in general and Russia and Japan in specific. It also targets the cold war's outbreak, along with its results, by bringing forward a post-cold war world order, an order known by its many conflicts specifically during the 21st century. In addition, this section also includes the rise of the United States of America as the new world dominator. On the same line, the second chapter deals with the implications of the New world order on all major domains, including the political, ideological as well as the economic ones. Besides, it advances the issue of the rise of organized crime in the post-cold era focusing on the two major criminal families, that is Russian Mafia and the Japanese Yakuza. Whereby, one

unveils the extent of their influence on their nations as well as on the world. Correspondingly, this chapter also tackles the political implications of the new world order under the effect of the Russian Mafia and the Yakuza.

To sum up, this research paper aims at unravelling one of the most important issues of the 21st century, which is both dangerous and vague for many. The degree of its reach seems to be immeasurable, yet this work attempts to shed light on its major tenants.

*Chapter One: A
Historical
Background of the
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1.1 Introduction

History is undoubtedly the culmination of the worldly events. It carries many secrets and mysteries, and stores countless facts about humans' previous experiences, especially those which have an everlasting influence, such as wars. History is filled with conflicts, wars and massacres triggered by man's desire to obtain the ultimate throne of power, showcasing his desire to be supreme. The declaration of a state of armed conflict between two imperium spheres of the world was considered as the most potent historical disaster, which was believed to be a result of the bout for power. Such a calamity resulted into two world wars, two crucial confrontations which reshaped the face of the earth, leading the world to enter a period of political and economic transactions. They proved to have vast geopolitical, ideological and social consequences, therefore becoming one of the scholars' most controversial targets of scrutiny. Their aftermath carried more conflicts, starting by a cold war and continuing into a world economic conflict. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a brief historical overview of the world history since the outbreak of the world wars till nowadays, and their consequences on the world in terms of the shift of power

1.2 World War I

As the greatest war to be witnessed, the first world war was supposed to be, "The war to end all wars", this was the title of an article in the BBC News magazine, and a statement which so adamantly seems to have been blind to the effects of the war. The first world war was an unprecedented calamity, the destruction and fatality it led to was beyond measures. It resulted from the conflict between Europe's leading nations, divided into two verges. It lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. It was tragic and catastrophic, as Keegan theorised:

...tragic because the consequences of the first clash ended the lives of ten million human beings, tortured the emotional lives of millions more, destroyed the benevolent and optimistic culture of the European continent and left, when the guns at last fell silent four years later, a legacy of political rancour and racial hatred so intense that no explanation of the causes of the Second World War can stand without reference to those roots (3).

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Hence, it is the first world war which resulted into the evil which came after, making it of utmost necessity to look into the reasons behind its occurrence, as well as its consequences mainly in terms of economy, and particularly concerning Russia and Japan.

1.2.1 Origins

According to Michael Howard, it was not a first that the European powers would quarrel for power. Those nations have been in a contest for supremacy for over three centuries. Hereafter, the first war, which was also referred to as ‘the Great War’, arose as an outcome of the conflict between the European nations, a result of their ambitions and their fear of one another (1). Similarly, other scholars endeavoured to put forward the many reasons leading to the war, such as:

...new naval and military technology, colonial rivalries, economic competition and irreconcilable national ambitions. However, perhaps the most important and obvious turning point towards a general European conflict was the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71. That limited confrontation had seen the humiliating defeat of France and the unification of Germany under Prussian leadership (Simkins, Jukes, Hickey 21)

Nevertheless, its prelude, according to Richard. C. Hall’s book, was the Balkan crisis, since it was then that the European powers interceded, and reshaped the outcome, resolve and clearance of the Balkan Wars (Preface). He also postulates that “The Balkan Wars were the first phase of the First World War. They were the same war”, the same, concerning the setting, that is Europe, as well as circumstances (Hall 132).

Yet, it is well known that the visible reason which kindled the flames of war, was the elimination of the heir of the Austrian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand on 28 June 1914, in Sarajevo, capital of Austria Hungary. He was assassinated through a conspiracy led by Gavrilo Princip, who was enlisted and sent to Sarajevo by the famous terrorist association in Serbia called the Black Hand. Even though this was a private endeavour of a terrorist group, still the Serbian government was not considered innocent and thus, Austria made use of such an incident in order to take revenge of Serbia (Simkins, Jukes, Hickey 32). As a consequence, since Serbia was backed up by Russia, Russian powers took no time to join the conflict, Austria Hungary on the other hand, had no choice but to join forces with Germany, along with

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these countries, France and Britain were also ready and willing to get into the war (Howard 18).

After various incidents, gradually, the most powerful European countries at the time seemed to enter the battle field. Broadberry and Harrison believed that Germany was the wolf among the sheep, conceiving that:

...in the late nineteenth century liberalism was being challenged by a new nationalism that gave more weight to the control of territory and settlement than to trade and competition. When it came to territory, the supply was fixed and there was only so much to go round. Therefore, the new nationalists reasoned, it was worth Germany's while to break up (3).

Henceforth, this break might have been Germany's chance to shift the scale of power to its side, which might be another prove that World War I was only triggered by the desire of nations to be supreme. Even before the outbreak of the war, Germany's rise to power led into the foundation of the, "anti-German coalition, the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France (1904) to which Russia was also admitted in 1907" (Broadberry Harrison 3). Similarly, it was stated in an article entitled "World War I- The Count Down", that: "Germany, in turn, saw in the Austro-Serbian confrontation a golden chance of securing hegemony in Europe, achieving world status while splitting the encircling Entente powers, forestalling Russian modernisation, eradicating the dangers to Austria-Hungary and suffocating domestic opposition" (Ward). On the other side Britain joined the war under the mask of protecting Belgium, while in reality it would be preserving the status quo or the balance of power, since Britain at the time was the largest and strongest empire. According to Simkins, Britain finally joined the war and attacked Germany in early august 1914 (Simkins et al 33) Soon after, other strong countries joined the war including the Ottoman Empire, Italy on the side of Germany and the United States of America on the side of Britain and France in an alliance entitled as the allies, in 1917 (Bigelow 4).

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1.2.2 Outcomes

After Four years of devastating battles the war was finally officially over after signing the Treaty of Versailles with Germany on 28 June 1919 (Hastedt 483), in which the Allies were the winning side. Moreover, Geyer and Tooze advance that “The First World War had been won by global economic force. The global superiority of the victorious powers, foremost the USA and Great Britain, was smothering in the aftermath of the war” (21), therefore; leaving Germany and the Axis powers as the losing rival. As a consequence, according to the 1998’s BBC News Magazine’s article “The War to End all Wars”, the end of the war resulted into the demise of four empire-states, including Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Russia, on the other hand various colonies gained liberty, while others were created. However, Belgium and Serbia, as well as France suffered severe damages, with 1.4 million soldiers dead, along with losses for other nations. When signing this treaty Germany was obliged to accept responsibility for: "all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies” (cited in Kaes et al 8).

Such a war undeniably resulted into various culminations, among which economy is one of the most affected fields, exclusively since the war exhausted the frailest economic powers such as Russia who had to leave the war in 1917, consequently destroying the central powers’ hope for victory mainly when Germany was overthrown in the west, As such it was the economic abilities of each nation which drew the finish line of the war (Broadberry and Harrison 5), and therefore have decided the economic situation of all countries afterwards. Approximately, the economic performance of all nations was shaken, according to Fisk: “The purchasing power of the currencies of every combatant nation was affected in varying degrees by inflation caused by the use of paper money and bank credits in financing the war...The expenditures for war totalled \$208,600,000,000 in currency” (1). Such a fact would mean that each status of each of the nations, who led the war, had been altered severely, especially those who were seen as the greatest economic powers before. It is also advanced that the burden of funding the war fell on specific nations only and not all; mainly Britain, France, Italy and Russia, while it was lighter on The United States of America (Fisk 21-22). The war also resulted into the destruction of many nations along with economic downturns, for example: “the war was followed in Russia by civil war, communism, and dictatorship; in Italy, Austria,

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and Hungary by fascism and dictatorship; and in Germany by fascism, dictatorship, war, and genocide.” (Broadberry and Harrison 2).

Other historians have discovered and calculated that the war’s effect and disturbance on trade and: “the diversion of factors of production into the work of destruction created problems for industry on both sides” that is not only for the Allies but also the Axis powers since, “the problem of falling industrial output was particularly severe in Germany”, while in Britain the index displayed a decrease of the order by only 10 per cent between 1914 and 1917; Germany however suffered of a 25 per cent reduction (Ferguson 250). Nations who aimed to restore the previous situation were met by: “the shocking collapse of the Great Depression” an economic crisis which “Not only was it the worst on record, but it immediately reopened the floodgates to the models of national economic mobilization that had emerged from the First World War” (Geyer and Tooze 27). This simple scrutiny showcases the beginning of the shift in the economic status of these nations after the end of the war, laying the ground for a new world force formation.

1.2.2.1 The Impact of World War I on Russia

As a major part of the Allied powers Russia joined the war on 19 July 1914 and met its end when the Bolshevik Party apprehended power on 26 October 1917 (Broadberry and Harrison 235). But, for Ferguson: “Russia by contrast (and contrary to the view that Tsarism was economically doomed) managed to increase industrial output by 17 per cent between 1914 and 1916” (250). However, by the end of the war Russia was one of the most affected nations since its early exit of the war did not mean the end of conflicts, civil war and foreign interference was underway a year after its departure of the war, and it was not until the end of 1920 that it started to regain its peaceful status accompanied by drastic political and socioeconomic transformations (Broadberry and Harrison 235). Broadberry and Harrison also add that before the War Russia was one of the greatest powers of Europe, but by its end the tsarist dynasty of Russia, “had vanished ignominiously, the territorial unity of the old empire had fragmented, and the Russian economy lay in ruins” (236). Yet Russia did not surrender to the status quo, By the 1920s new foundations have been laid by Russian economics in order to restore the level of national income which was achieved before the war

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and Russia was able to achieve the latter by 1928 (Harrison 264), making it again on the top of the pyramid of power.

1.2.2.2 The Impact of World War II on Japan

Similarly, Japan also joined the war in 1914 on the side of Russia and Britain, when it suggested to gain Germany's pacific territories as an exchange for its alliance with the allied powers (O'Neill 276). Moreover, it declared war both on Germany and Austria Hungary as reported in the Japan Times in July 2014. Unlike Russia the war effect for Japan was quite positive. Undoubtedly, joining the war meant that Japan had a huge role, which was indeed echoed in providing needed war material for its European allies, which insured the exchanged advantage of gaining prosperity and diversity of the country's industrial materials. The latter resulted into the, upsurge of exports shifting Japan from a status of weakness to join the powers of the world (Smitka 192). But akin to the other nations after the end of the war Japan as well suffered from economic downturns including: "the Showa Financial Crisis of 1927 and the Showa Depression of 1930-31 marked turning points" (Shizume 1), which will lead it to join the second world War.

To sum up, the first great war between the European nations had resulted into an amalgam of consequences: empires fell, new nations emerged, and colonies gained independence especially those of Germany (Bigelow 5), and most importantly new powers were on the verge of becoming, as calculated by Bowley the process of the United States' taking control on world economy was already taking place even before world War I (cited in Broadberry and Harrison 29) which means that it was but a step among many, a fact which was evident since the United States joined the war lately and suffered minor loses making America the overnight, leading financial power in the world by the coming of the 2nd World War. Thus, it was held that the equilibrium of power in the world was broken but not shattered, it was not until the outbreak of the second world war and what comes after that things would change drastically such as the creation of the United nations as a replacement for the league of nations who, "was supposed to put an end to war"(Van Ginneken ix), yet, even though it failed still, "...it paved the way for the United Nations and the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that are fulfilling many of the promises once attached to the League" (ibid).

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1.3 World War Two

As the First World War ended, people were fed up of war horrors, they aimed and wished for ever lasting peace, however that peace could only last for 20 years. After only two decades, “Sixty-one states leapt at each other’s throats between 1939 and 1945” (Bourke 2), in what is to be known as World War II. The latter was considered as the greatest and most horrific war ever witnessed. As its predecessor, it also had reasons and consequences which proved to further transform the face of the earth.

1.3.1 Origins

Many scholars agree on the fact that the major trigger of this war was the first world war, in fact it is believed that “what Europeans experienced was a: ‘Thirty Years War’ of the twentieth century”(Bourke 9), that is the first world war never ended it was only in a period of rearmament, reignited by the conditions of:

the humiliating Treaty of Versailles (1919) on the defeated powers and forcing them to mortgage their economies with an outlandish reparations bill set up a marker for another major conflict. As one historian put it: ‘Powers will be Powers.’² In other words, it was inevitable that Germany would seek to regain what it regarded as its rightful place in the world (Ibid).

Therefore, once again Germany was the mastermind behind the outbreak of this global war. As put forward by Barbara Bigelow, “World War II was the first time a war was fought all over the world. By the time it ended, there had been fighting on every continent except South America and Antarctica, and in almost all the oceans” (1), hence making it a worse calamity than the proceeding one.

Yet the war did not directly begin in 1939 in Europe, it was believed that: “This terrible destruction began as two separate wars, one in Europe and one in eastern Asia”, The reasons and history of those wars were distinct, in which: “In Asia and the Pacific, the war was fought between Japan and several countries, but mainly with China, Great Britain, and the United States” (Bigelow 2). Bigelow also adds that the reasons behind the outbreak of that conflict was in fact Japan’s efforts to take control over Asian territories (2). The European

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conflict however, included almost every European community with specific countries having major evident parts. It was triggered in September 1939 when Germany attacked Poland leading Great Britain and France to intervene as part of their oath to defend Poland if ever confronted by Germany, “Great Britain, France, and the countries that would eventually join them against Germany were called the Allied powers. Germany was joined by Italy and later by Japan to form the Axis powers” (Bigelow 3).

On the other side of the world Japan Started to move its troops in order to take control over Chinese lands, when: “the Japanese Prime Minister proclaimed a ‘New Order in East Asia’”, at that moment Japan became a serious threat to America who was once relying on its riches like: “oil, gasoline, and scrap iron” (Bourke 19). This move by Japan led into a trade restriction which later on resulted into Japan bombing the American port called Pearl Harbour in December 1941, on the Hawaiian Islands and therefore the United States would launch war against Japan (Bigelow 3). Furthermore, in Europe things were not much different, in June 1941, Germany attacked the Soviet Union. In December 1941, it declared war on the United States. By that time, Germany had conquered much of Europe (Bigelow 3). Hence it was then that the World War II was officially taking place.

1.3.2 Outcomes

World War one was known for its race for power, race for re-armament and mobilization of troops, however, many scholars agree that it is World War Two which displayed the magnitude of the world’s preparations for a global war:

The Second World War was, as Jeffrey Fear puts it in his essay, a ‘war of factories’ – a theme that is also echoed in the plate section. In the course of the war the practices and institutions of production, finance, research and development, logistics and consumption were all massively reshaped and redirected. There can be little argument that the Second World War was a key moment in the process of making and remaking the national and international economy (cited in Geyer and Tooze 21)

Henceforth, making it evident that world war II had its major effects on reshaping the world economic scenery, not only during the war but manifestly till nowadays. Moreover, the end of

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the war was marked by the fall of the Axis powers, a fact which was empowered by the huge difference between the economic powers of both sides (Broadberry and Harrison³⁶), as such it was clear that economy played the biggest role in whose to take on the throne of power. Having said that, the war made sure that the road to rebuild the world economy was long as stated, “the process of reconstruction was so immense that all countries struggled to cope” (Bourke 196). Bourke Also adds that the war also marked the end of imperialism and thus the beginning of the fall of great imperial powers of the time (197).

1.3.2.1 The Impacts of World War II on Russia

Unlike in World War I Russia was no longer known as such, it was now the Soviet Union, a stronger nation having control on more east European territories, it was also having agreements with Germany its former rival, but on 22 June 1941, Joseph Stalin who led the Soviet Union at the time decided to join the allies and enter the war, in order to stop Hitler’s attack on the soviet union (Pearson). Even though it was one of the winning nations, it still suffered huge losses in terms of the financial status, it was estimated that it lost \$192 billion for the war along with a lend-lease from US for supplying the war (Wells and Wells 122). Therefore, the Soviet Union lost the money it gained from industrialization after the great depression, leading its economy to be reduced by 20% between 1941 and 1945 (Pauwels 377). Consequently, the war left the Soviet Union on the verge of decline, yet on the long term the war had its positive consequences as it is thought that: “the Soviet economy did not collapse at the end of the 1980s because of its success in mobilizing against Germany at the beginning of the 1940s.” (Harrison 296). Nevertheless, by the 1950s it was acknowledged that by the end of the war the Soviet Union along with The United States of America were the only nations at the time who still possessed strong military economic and diplomatic spheres (McMahon 3).

1.3.2.2 The Impacts of World War II on Japan

Japan, was no different, as the other nations who participated in the war, Japan as well experienced the war and post war effects:

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The economy was in a state of disarray as a result of fierce inflation and the severe decline of industrial production, and controls as such remained in full force until the economy was rebuilt on a peacetime basis. Inflation was stabilised in 1949 with the establishment of a uniform exchange rate, and it was in or around 1950 that deregulation finally took place (Harrison 224-225).

It was also found that the cotton industry in Japan suffered greatly, in which the majority of its pre-war production of cotton was lost under the hands of the war overseers in the end of the second world war, it was also reported that both spinning and weaving capacities suffered of huge losses (Macnaughtan 11). Nevertheless, Japan did not surrender to its losses, instead it puzzled the world with what was known as the: “economic miracle”, a result of the economic interventionism of the Japanese government as well as to the United States aids through the Marshall Plan (Nakamura 56).

The 1st and 2nd World Wars both proved to have their effects on the world. It is mostly demonstrated through world economy its constant shifts as well as the frequent change in the participating countries’ status. According to Dean Acheson: “The whole world structure and order that we had inherited from the nineteenth century was gone” (cited in McMahon 3), thus preparing the world for a New World Order. What is to be grasped of the second world war is that it was a replica of the previous war held in Europe, only this time more countries are involved, along with an increase in human, financial, and arms resources, thus resulting into increased damages and havoc (Broadberry and Harrison 34). Despite the fact that the people of the world had enough of wars that they no longer wish to enter another, still soon enough they will encounter not an armed war, but a war of a different kind one which will be referred to as the cold war.

1.4 The Cold War

After a six years period of devastating battles, World War two met its end in 1945. However, this also marked the outburst of the conflict between the only standing super powers at the time. The only thing The Soviet Union and America agreed on, is the fact that they saw a different future to the world after the end of the war (Leuchtengurb 9). This disagreement quickly grew into a global conflict of: “wills, outlooks, and ideologies”, resulting into a new

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war entitled as “the Cold War” (McNeese 14). As stated by MacMahon the background of this clash was kindled by “the intersection between a world rendered prostrate by a devastating global conflict and the conflicting recipes for international order that Washington and Moscow sought to impose on that pliable, war-shattered world” (5).

The first time the term Cold War was used, was by the end of the 2nd world war by the famous writer George Orwell, in his essay "You and the Atomic Bomb", published 19 October 1945 in the British newspaper Tribune, in which he would refer to a world living in anticipation for nuclear warfare. The reasons behind the outbreak of this conflict were controversial, for the partisans of America and Harry Truman at the time, the accountability for this conflict was laid on the Soviet Union, emphasising the fact that Joseph Stalin leader of the soviet Union desecrated the pact made at Yalta, as well as the fact of being suspected of aspiring for expansion in Europe and the spread of the communist ideology in the world. (Brinkley 798-799). In contrast historians belonging to the "Wisconsin School" of diplomatic history such as Williams, believed that the burden of starting the war should be placed on the United States of America because of its endeavours to segregate and challenge the Soviet Union during the war and afterwards. He also adds that the, “open-door policy” adopted by America was only a mask to spread capitalism through business and agricultural activities all over the world (Nashel). Moreover, this clash led into splitting the world into two sides by what Winston Churchill termed as the Iron Curtain in his telegram on May 12, 1945 sent to Truman. Churchill questioned the future of Europe and the USSR’s agenda, in which Joseph Stalin was spreading communism to cover numerous European countries (cited in McNeese 22). Henceforth, it became clear that the cold war rose from the conflict between communism and capitalism, the two distinct ideological systems.

Even though the Cold War confrontation was between America and the Soviet Union with their European allies, still the major events of the conflict took place in Asia. Despite the fact that it was referred to as a cold war, with time it proved otherwise, arms and fire always found place within any conflict. The United States of America, and the Soviet Union would meet in the battle field soon enough after the 2nd world war yet not on the same side, by the time of the outbreak of the Korean war in June 1950, the cold war transformed into a hot one in Asia (McMahon 35). Similarly, America took no time to occupy Japan, because it saw Japan, “...as the Asian analogue to (West) Germany: a nation whose advanced industrial infrastructure, skilled workforce, and technological prowess made it both the indispensable

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engine of regional economic growth and a Cold War strategic asset of incalculable value”, which means that Japan poses a great threat to the balances of power if ever to be put under the rule of the communists, as such making it of utmost necessity that the United States keeps control over Japan and guide it to join western Europe. McMahon, also augments that the fact that China was under Japanese control, and mainly Japanese communists by 1949, also made it a great threat to the capitalist powers, since, “It also signified a fundamental shift in the nature and locus of the Cold War – with weighty strategic, ideological, and domestic political implications.” (38)

Hereafter, Asia and later on Latin America, Middle East and Africa became the centre of the conflict between the two superpowers of the time. They have found material, strategic settings both economically and militarily in order to have enough influence and authority over the world, making such territories the new long-term basis of the cold war tensions up until the 1980s (McMahon 56). As such no wars were waged in Europe, especially with the fear of the usage of nuclear powers, instead the third world was a surrogate land where the capitalist and communist powers found freedom to quarrel (Ibid). Mainly the two opponents sought to take control over the world in the post-war era, each one trying to harvest as many allies, create as much mass destruction weapons, such as atomic and nuclear bombs, as possible and spread their ideologies to the rest of the world. Yet:

The two adversaries never sent their troops into battle against one another directly. Instead, they confronted one another militarily through proxies, built alliances, bolstered client states with foreign aid, constructed overseas bases and intelligence posts, started an expensive arms race, launched covert operations, and orchestrated international propaganda campaigns. During the five years that followed the Second World War, they haggled over reparations, spurned international controls on atomic weapons, jockeyed for political and strategic advantage in Iran and the Turkish straits, faced off over Berlin, backed opposing sides in China's civil war, and buttressed their respective allies on the Korean peninsula. (Merrill and Paterson 186-187)

However, The Cold War like any other, was inevitable to end even though lasting for over 4 decades, still, by 1989 the signs of the end were peaking. The Cold war ended with the decline of the Soviet Union, which was established not by arms, nor by its rival but it was extinguished from within with the rise of the Bolshevik revolution, led by people who

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suffered injustices and excruciating living conditions, marking the end of the rivalry for power, and the victory of the United States of America (Gaddis 238). Adding to the fact that the Soviet Union's economic situation was suffering severely, till the leaders of the two spheres decided to announce the end of the Cold War On 3 December 1989, at the Malta Summit, bringing end to the race for power (BBC News). According to McMahon the tension ended with: "a historic Soviet-American rapprochement, unprecedented arms control agreements, the withdrawal of Soviet power from Eastern Europe, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, and the peaceful reunification of Germany (143), thus reflecting a transformation of the world events.

It was also reported in a web article entitled "Who Won the Cold War?", that the ideological confrontation met its end with the decline of the Soviet Union in 1991, which followed the fall of the Berlin Wall as well as the Polish and Czechoslovakian revolutions. It also states that according to historical scholars America triumphed by its strong financial status, which helped in draining the Soviets: "through proxy wars and the nuclear arms race"(Clark). Goldmann and his colleagues, agree on such an idea, as they advance that the Soviet Union faced "an internal crisis in the centrally planned economies, integral to their collapse in 1989 (Goldmann et al 88). Hence, making the United States the only nation who was still thought of as a super power, while all others fell back under financial pressure, making the end of the cold war, a crucial period in the grand scheme of reshaping and regrouping the world's economic leaders (Ibid 86).

Therefore, The Cold War was not only a limited-period conflict, even though it was over, its consequences were not. The effects of the Cold war continued in what is to be known as the post-cold war era. Such an era is said to be occupied with a set of events as well as facts which display the shift of power and economic status, mainly focusing on the victor of the Cold War, the United States of America and its rise to power, as cited by Drury, Hegel in his lectures foretold America's rise into power after Washington having triumphed against Moscow, and thus he surmised that it was inevitable for the United States to become the beacon of lifestyle of the world (82).

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1.5 Post-Cold War Order

The period following the cold war, was a time characterised by: “the decline and dissolution of the Soviet Union, the disappearance of Walls and Iron Curtains, and the shift away from a global bipolar power structure and a nuclear arms race” (Goldmann et al 1). Hence, it was an era known for its peaceful state or was this only what was expected? This idea also indicates that the world was no longer headed by two strong nations. Additionally, this period was known to have started in the 1990s and continues till nowadays (Ibid 2), a time known by its many turbulences and shifts.

The most essential shift occurring during this period was known by many as the emergence of the new world order. At the time of the cold war the world was led by many forces it was “bipolar”, despite the imbalances of power and economy, still there was a near equal authority over the world between Moscow and Washington, yet with the fall of the Soviet Union especially economically, America remained the only super power heading the world. As postulated by Baral and his equals:

the diffusion of military and economic power has taken place to a significant extent. But the emergence of the United States as the only super power in the post-Cold War years has been a fact...After the quick and decisive victory of the US in the Desert War of 1991, President George Bush of the US declared the birth of a New World Order in which the United States and Russia will guarantee peace and security (63)

Thus, it was now up to the United States to decide how the world would function, since America was now the only force on the top of the pyramid of power.

Some scholars have tried to predict the future of the world, Fred Bergsten was among them, in his 1990 essay “The World Economy After the Cold War”, he calculated that the classification of powers will no longer be based on military powers only, but mainly on the economic status of nations, where the world is to be led by what he called: “the U.S.-European-Japanese tripolarity”. He also predicted the creation of the European Union, in which Europe is to become, “the world’s largest market and largest trader”, in which he was totally correct. He also added that the position of Japan as: “the world's largest creditor and the leader in many key technologies” will continue and by the 21st century it might enhance, till its economic success will exceed that of the United States. Nevertheless, he postulated that

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the united states will remain to be the only military superpower, and it would remain on the top of the world affairs since it is the only nation who preserved both its military and economic statuses (Bergsten).

After the end of the cold war the world was transformed from functioning on the energy produced through primary materials into a world run by advanced technological tools. According to the: “Los Angeles Times” writer James Flanigan of “Economics After the Cold War”, the world economy was:

...an economy based on computer-guided machines that turn out high-quality goods with labor that can be quickly trained. It's an economy based on microchips and knowledge that moves like quicksilver compared to the 19th Century's coal-and-iron-based industries...It's an economy exemplified by the chain store in the American shopping mall that turns out quality eyeglasses in an hour with the help of semi-skilled technicians and computerized machines

Such an advanced world, is believed to be the product of the space race, this competition resulted into the creation not only of “computers”, and “global positioning satellites” but it even enhanced the weapon industry resulting into: “the cruise missile and smart bombs, first used in the 1991 Persian Gulf War”. In fact, technology is believed to have dominated all the spheres of human life (Arnold and Wiener xxxii).

Even though the over forty years of psychological warfare and proxy battles were over, the world was not yet at peace. Because when the cold war met its end a new type of violence emerged. Various nations fell into the trap of local disputes by the fall of the communist regime and the breakdown of the third world nations. The war was also followed by a surge of terrorist attacks on the western world, started on September 11th, 2001(Betts 2). As such the world was once more in front of a world crisis, the new century's set of conflicts.

1.6 The 21st Century Conflicts

A new millennium is at hand, a new age of globalization, industry and technology, yet also an age of turbulences and warfare. President Bush: “foresaw the advent of ‘a new era- freer from the threat of terror, stronger in the pursuit of justice, and more secure in the quest for peace, an era in which the nations of the worlds, East and West, North and South, can prosper and live in harmony’” (cited in Brown 2), however; during the same year this

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statement was uttered, another war was going to be waged, entitled as the Gulf War. Similarly, few years later the so-called terrorist attacks and war on terror began, as well as the what was referred to as the Arab Spring, all over the middle east and north Africa, making the 21st century a period littered with violent conflicts

The Gulf war was triggered due to Saddam Hussein's believe that: "Kuwaiti was excessively pumping out too much oil and exceeding level production quotas, lowering world oil prices and hurting Iraq" and therefor by the 2nd of August, 1990 "Iraqi troops began to mass along the Kuwaiti border" (cited in Benaini 26). Thus, making Iraq the new threat on the economy of the United States which relied heavily on oil, leading America and the United Nations to take matters into their own hands. They believed that this act of violence must be put into an end. As such the United nations delegated Saudi Arabia to protect Kuwait under the mission entitled: "Operation Desert Shield" (Ibid). When this mission along with the United Nations warnings were of no avail, America along with its western allies including France, the United Kingdom and others decided on January 17, 1991 to bombard Baghdad using high-tech cruise missiles, leading to the quick defeat of Iraq (Benmahammed 29).

Yet, the conflict did not end here, after 12 years of tensions between Iraq and America, the United States decided to invade Iraq by U.S military in 2003, under the excuse that Saddam Hussein owned chemical and biological weapons and working to own nuclear weapons as well. Ironically Iraq did not resort into any nuclear weapons when defending itself against the invasion, and even Saddam Hussein did not manage to escape for a long period and ended up being arrested, and the war ended on May 2003 (Ezeibe and Ogbodo 146). Henceforth, many believed that there is another reason for America's invasion of Iraq rather than the fear of nuclear weapons, according to Vice-President Dick Cheney's report, America, "invaded Iraq to subvert an impending global energy crisis which would leave the U.S with unprecedented energy price volatility" (Ibid 147), therefore all of the destruction and death in Iraq was for the United Nations wish to remain a super power.

One of the major reasons which made America's attack on Iraq more plausible to the world, is the emergence of what they called as Islamic terrorism. Whereby the first visible so-called terrorist attack on America happened unexpectedly on September 11, 2001, when "the World Trade Centre in New York and the Headquarters of the American Defence Department (the Pentagon) in Washington" were attacked by a suicidal mission, leading into: "the largest work of destruction against United States interests in modern times" (Al Bayati 11). The

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attacks happened after, “hijacking two commercial airliners and crashing them directly to the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York, then another attack was held on the Pentagon House in Washington D.C, and finally a fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania” (Benaini 27). Hereafter, the 9/11 events, were met by severe consequences, the president of the United States at the time George Bush, triggered a new war with Islamic terrorists, Al-Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan. A war which was to be acknowledged as The Global War on Terror (Ezeibe and Ogbodo 146). A war and also an excuse to intervene within the richest countries of the world.

While the war on terror continued, in 2010 a new violent rage was contaminating the Arab world. Populists revolutions all over the middle east and North Africa began to outburst, whereby citizens decided, “to call for an end to authoritarian rule and corruption. While the initial uprisings began in December 2010 in Tunisia, in the coming months they spread to Egypt, Libya, and throughout the region. All countries in the region felt the effects of the Arab Spring” (Blythe 7). Similarly, there were also constant turbulences Syria resulting from the modification of the state’s regime and end-state of opposition (Ibid 7). Those governments were believed to be supported by The United States of America due to its fear that the people’s uprisings would shake its worldly status. Thus, it provided security and economic assistance to those regimes, in order, according to Mahmood Monshipouri and Ali Assareh in their article “The New Middle East and the United States: What to Expect After the Uprisings?”, to insure the safe and smooth flow of oil, and to: “support Israel and pro-Western authoritarian regimes, and deter and contain the Islamic threat”. Therefore, the latter explains why America frequently ignored human rights violations, that is in order to keep its status as the leader of the world and economic superpower (cited in Blythe 14).

To conclude, the 21st century’s major conflicts have proved to be the result of the United states endeavour to sit on the throne of power. Terrorism, and human rights were never the true reason for the American interventions in the Arab world, but rather only the mask beneath the ploy. As postulated by Ezeibe and Ogbodo, America’s invasion of Iraq is but “the pursuit of American capitalist interest which is centred in the Middle East Oil”. Hence the 9/11 attacks only helped achieved the latter, while the Arab springs were only collateral damage to keep the lead.

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1.7 The US World Domination

A century proved to be enough for the United States to move from a policy and state of isolationism, into becoming one of the most influential nations of the world, a nation fully engaged in the affairs of Europe and Asia. By the advent of the 21st century America was well-thought-out as the new world leader. It excelled in various fields and headed a number of organizations. Regarding Hunt, “The United States now occupies a global position of unusual, arguably unprecedented dominance—what is often fashionably described as hegemony or empire” (Hunt 1). Hereafter, its dominion started to form during the world wars and continued to take shape until it reached its full form during and after the cold war.

The United States of America was already a strong nation when it joined the first world war in 1917, three years after its outbreak (Goldstein and Maihafer xiii). Yet it was the US’s entry to the world war which marked its journey to reach the top as a super power.

Herfried Munkler, advanced that: “Treasury Secretary William Gibbs McAdoo, a son-in-law of President Woodrow Wilson, was already forging plans to replace the pound sterling with the dollar as the foremost international reserve currency” (cited in Hoyng), meaning the United States took advantage of the world war in order to better its financial status. During the War America became the sole destination for the allies for purchasing supplies to continue the war. As reported in “The Atlantic” magazine, by David Frum in his work entitled “The Real Story of How America Became an Economic Superpower”, as he reports Adam Tooze’s study concerning the World Wars, that by 1916, “Britain bought more than a quarter of the engines for its new air fleet, more than half of its shell casings, more than two-thirds of its grain, and nearly all of its oil from foreign suppliers, with the United States heading the list”. According to Tooze’s calculations: “By the end of 1916, American investors had wagered two billion dollars on an Entente victory”, He also estimated America’s GDP at the time of of \$50 billion which is the equivalent of \$560 billion in today’s money (Frum). Such a fact did not only mean that America was rising to meet the world powers, rather it also meant that the other forces are going to be indebted to America, a fact which will accentuate with the coming of WW II.

Once more America was obliged to enter the war, in the first world war it was due to Germany’s act of sinking a ship carrying American citizens, while in this war, it was Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbour which was believed to have transferred the world from having tensions in two different continents, onto a “global conflict”(Maddox 85). Yet even though

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America participated in the war as much as any other nation, it was the sole nation who was not crippled by the war expenses, instead it preserved its economic and military strength, and thus possessed the ability to reshape the post war power balance. (Ellis et al). As a matter of fact Hunt advanced that during World War II, it was considered as the: “world’s leading war machine”, since it possessed a large and rising economy, in 1938 it had a total of a GDP that is third of: “the total GDP of the great powers—only slightly smaller than the combined GDP of its allies and 20 percent larger than the combined Axis GDP”, therefore America used such riches to take on Japan and Germany, while lose as lower percentage of human resources as possible (129). The war also had other advantages on the United states, its military and Navy grew from a third of a million in 1939 to reach 12.1 million by the war’s end. According to a scholar, fuelled by an enormous agricultural and industrial productivity, America: “was not only the arsenal of democracy; it was the factory, the breadbasket, the warehouse, and the delivery truck” (Hunt 130). As such America got out of the war not only as a victor but as the only true victor with the strongest economy and military, making it the most influential nation of the time, ready to defeat the Soviet Unions’ communism and set a new world order.

Stalin, Truman, and Churchill were all blamed for the outburst of the cold war, yet to discover who really triggered the war is still a mystery (McNeese15-16). While Roosevelt wished to grant every falling nation the right to choose its government, Stalin decided to take them under the wing of communism (Ibid 18). Hitherto by the time Truman became president, he advanced a new policy focused on constraining communism from spreading, that is the “Truman Doctrine”, and it is believed that this policy was the one which planted: “the seeds of the Cold War” (Ibid 22). It is well thought-out that the race for power between the two rivals, directed the United States to found a perpetual peaceful alliance, known as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or NATO. It is also believed to have resulted into a growing military and political attendance responsible for the containment of the spread of communism, whereby it commanded interference in places such as Vietnam and Afghanistan and association with countries like Saudi Arabia and South Korea. America also decided to create what is to be known as “the Bretton Woods System”, which was a global financial organisation responsible for preserving the stability of world economy from any probable

Depressions, and formed the United Nations as the peace keeper of the world (Ellis et al). Concerning the economic status of America during the war, in the 1950s the US was enjoying a thriving economy that grew by a matchless rate of any other period (McNeese 88). As such,

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the American citizens lavished in the best living conditions, with the highest wages at that time (Ibid 91). Hunt concludes that the mid of the twentieth century its end and the advent of the 21st century all witnessed the US taking over the throne of power. With an unparalleled armed force and world-wide influence America was able to transform the global economy as well as to assure a political dominance over the entire world no matter how displeasing its decisions were (308).

Hence, the United States of America, the new world, proved its cunning abilities to reach the top in a short period of time, in comparison to the long-lasting empires which existed way before in history. A previous so-called colony was now the strongest nation ever witnessed, having control over the globe, spreading its ideologies and ways of living, and making the world its own. However, nothing lasts forever, one cannot seem to neglect the fact that other nations are rising to power such as Japan and Russia, making it of utmost importance to delve into their worldly status nowadays.

1.8 Conclusion

One century culminated man's desire and greed to rule the world, in which two world wars, between the world's strongest nations brought destruction and havoc to the world followed by a psychological warfare called the Cold war of over four decades. Moreover, the latters played the role of reshaping the world of today, as many empires fell and disappeared, other nations flourished and rose to power. Similarly, even though unmatched massacres, hunger, and destruction decimated the world, those calamities also resulted into an advanced world powered by technological modernisations. A world led by the strongest economic and advanced nation.

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2.1 Introduction

When the cold war came into an end, the world entered a new stage of domination based on globalization and capitalism, that is mainly; it was led by the United States of America. Yet, it is also debated that the world, was also being introduced into a new type of control. The Cartels, Mafias and Organized Crime became more evident and potent by the end of the cold war walking hand in hand with the formation of the new world order. This chapter aims to focus on two of the most vicious world cartels. Some argue, that the Russian and Japanese Cartels have grown over the years to be greatest threats to the world economy and thus to the new world order as a whole. In this regard, this chapter aims to examine the world scenery post-cold war, including the implications of the New world order: politically, ideologically, and economically. It is also concerned with shedding light on the world of organized crime in Russia and Japan in respect to its influence on the world in general and the United States of America in particular. In that order, the Russian Mafia was believed to rule the west, while the Japanese Cartel took over the eastern world.

2.2 Implications of the New World Order

The end of the world wars and the cold war contributed into the creation of a new worldly scheme, a world led by the United States as a unipolar force. Yet, certainly, the world did not witness a period marked by a peaceful state. Aside from fighting terrorism and encountering international conflicts the world was on the verge of bumping into a new form of threat, one which was known as organized crime.

Claire Sterling in her book *A Thieves' World*, took it on her shoulders to investigate the latter. She discovered that the new world order, also led into the outburst of this phenomenon, stating:

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Organized crime was transformed when the Soviet Empire crashed, and with it a world order that had kept mankind more or less in line for the previous half-century. As the old geopolitical frontiers fell away, the big crime syndicates drew together, put an end to wars over turf, and declared a paxmafiosa. The world has never seen a planetwide criminal consortium like the one that came into being with the end of the communist era (14).

Hence, the rise of these criminal spheres changed the manner in which the world fought for power. It is no longer between countries; it is rather between governments of the world against criminal groups and families. In other words, organized crime was devouring the world, as it was suspected of touching all the major domains including the political, ideological and economic ones. Thus, it is necessary to delve into these domains during the post-cold war era prior to analysing the effects of organized crime specifically the Russian and Japanese Mafias.

2.2.1 Political Implications

The fall of communism and the demise of the Soviet Union, left the world with a unipolar international system governing the world under the headship of the United States. Having said that, it is also thought that there is a different kind of system leading the world, one “...based upon the United Nations, a Polypolar system of World order in which a number of different powers compete or coexist with each other without any one being predominant in relation to the others” (Wang Sienho 7). But is it not fair to say that these two systems walk on the same path?

In fact, in regard of the world’s controlling system Jarrod Wiener mentioned that: “...US President George Bush stated before Congress on 11 September 1990 that, ‘we are now in sight of a United Nations that performs as envisioned by its founders’(, and exclaimed in January 1991 that, ‘we are the only nation on this earth that could

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assemble the forces of peace. This is the burden of leadership” (41). Through these contradictory views one could easily discern that it was up to the United States to decide the course of action, even if under the flag of the United Nations, and this was said differently by Wiener, when he conceptualized that this new alliance of great powers led by America serves as a replacement of the cold war power-duality (Ibid). Wiener also provides an example, that is: “...During the Gulf War, The Guardian sounded a typical comment, that: ‘The Allies embarked, under dominant American leadership, upon the first testing of a New World Order, with the United Nations at its heart’” (41).

America as the leader of the new world system had its own agenda concerning the world’s major powers in corresponds with its benefits. When it came to Russia, America decided that it should be integrated within “the Western-based international system”, because:

Integrating Russia into this system would have two benefits, according to this policy. First, the system itself would serve as incentive for both internal reform and the transition from Soviet communism... Second, by favoring these sorts of internal Russian changes--even if only at the margins-- international integration would help to create a Russia with interests that would be generally more similar to those of the leading Western countries (Wallander 1-2)

Hence, ameliorating Russia’s situation would mean it will be able to join the globalized image of the world, since Russia will be obliged to walk on the footsteps of America and the rest of Europe rather than follow the socialist communist regime. Similarly, the United States found it more profitable to keep good relations with Japan and mainly hold an alliance with it. As a result,

In April 1996, President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto Ryutaro issued a Joint Declaration on Security that emphasized the importance of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty for maintaining peace and stability in the post-cold war Asia Pacific region, and they agreed to revise the Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation that had been adopted in the late 1970s in order to

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strengthen military cooperation in the event of contingencies in the region(Curtis 4).

These two examples display the unipolarity of the world led by America. According to Andrew Korybko's article "21st-Century Geopolitics of the Multipolar World Order", American supremacy is based on its "predominant hegemony in a wide variety of spheres, whether exercised directly through unilateral initiatives or indirectly ("Lead From Behind") through its regional and institutional partners". However, Korybko also adds, that by the 21st century the powers of the world no longer wish to stay under the American control instead they started preparing for: "a diversified array of multiple stakeholders in order to bring balance to International Affairs" (Ibid), as they no longer want to be forced to follow the orders of the US in order to suit its benefits. Thus, they decided to reform global establishments like the United Nations, and many others along with creating replacements "like the BRICS New Development Bank" (Ibid). Hereafter, the 21st century and its new ideologies, set forward a new way of thinking one which convinced stronger nations of the necessity of a multipolar world.

Preserving good international relations between the world's powers and the creation and enforcement of the United Nations as the protector of the world, make the world seem to be a peaceful place protected from wars, conflicts and even greed and the desire for power. Especially that it became an inclusionary world ruled by multiple forces rather than one unwanted leader. Yet this world of globalization, ironically encompass even the world of crime.

2.2.2 Ideological Implications

Through history the world witnessed numerous ideologies. Manfred. B. Steger had discerned that: "An ideology can be defined as a system of widely shared ideas, patterned beliefs, guiding norms and values, and ideals accepted as truth by a

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particular group of people. Ideologies offer individuals a more or less coherent picture of the world not only as it is, but also as it ought to be” (93). According to this definition, among of the many ideologies emerging and flourishing at the time, the ideology which dominated the world since the end of cold war till date, and was accepted either consciously or not by the people and the governments of the world, is in fact globalization. Then, it is necessary to investigate the effects of globalization in response to international relations as part of the effects of the New World Order.

Globalization is not a new phenomenon, yet it had become more prominent by the coming of the 21st century especially in terms of international affairs. Moreover, globalization was “understood as ‘an intensification of cross-border interactions and interdependence between countries’” has brought about major change in the international system.” (cited in Oldemeinen). As a consequence, globalization started to occupy major roles in the global issues, as theorised in *The Globalization of World Politics*: “As globalization has proceeded, so has the recognition of transnational problems requiring global regulation, from climate change to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” (Baylis et al 17). Before the advent of a globalized political scenery, each country was working for its own individual benefit, and its own security, but now, they would rather join forces to encounter any issue, due to the fact that even problems have become global, influencing the entire world, consequently they would resort into the help of “Intergovernmental Organizations” similar to the United Nations (Oldemeinen). An example of such problems is the issue of organized crime, as mentioned in *the Globalization of Crime*: “Bringing the rule of law to the international flow of goods and services is essential if the problems of organized crime are to be uprooted.” (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 18).

Taking the example of Russia, it was one of the many countries which were highly influenced by Globalization, especially in terms of economy and worldly affairs under western footings (Molchanov 397). One of the most essential impacts is the shift which Russia witnessed from a socialist system into a capitalist regime, due to globalization, a regime Russia fought, for over half a century. On the same plane, Molchanov asserted that: “One indicator of this change is the fact that the Communist

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Party's popularity in today's Russia is at an all-time low" (398). Nevertheless, the collapse of communism and the advance of capitalism was not all positive, since it resulted in a number of issues, similar to: "The cutthroat competition among the Russian nouveaux riches", resulting into: "...crime and corruption, which could not but overflow thenational borders" (Ibid 399). As a result, the rise of crime in a globalized world also means that this calamity would touch the entire glob and not only Russia.

Likewise, Japan was also under the influence of globalization with higher levels of: "global involvement", especially after the end of America's colonization (Grimes 170). Japan along with many other countries joined the international battle field of industry with the rise of globalization as well as "the rise in the corporate world", this idea was asserted by Grimes in which he also adds that "Over the last several years, there has been a drumbeat of foreign acquisitions of Japanese firms and financial institutions"(170). Similar to Russia on the other Hand, Japan as well suffered of various downturns when it came to globalization not only in terms of organized crime with the Yakuza, the second major "criminal syndicate" after Russia, in a world were "globalization has allowed previously local criminal gangs and organizations to expand and cross national boundaries"(Genovese), yet also in terms of Japan's economy, and this is why, "...many Japanese opinion leaders fear that the post-war "Japanese system" is itself under attack by global forces, and in danger of crumbling away"(Grimes 173).

Henceforward, Globalization as the ideology which controlled the world for quite a considerable period had been re-incarnated with the rise of the new world order. Yet globalization also helped into the appearance of numerous issues in various fields. Moreover, the new world order required a world of shared goals, and thus needed cooperation reflected in international relations and economic alliances, since it is also believed that the economic crisis prior to the end of the cold war was ended through capitalism and it "going global" (Robinson).

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2.2.3 Economic Implications

After the Fall of the Berlin wall and the end of the cold war the financial status of countries became of most importance. With the emergences of the New World Order, the strongest nation was no longer measured by its military force but rather by its economic rigor and development (Bergesten). In his article, Bergesten also postulates that America as the sole standing nation after the cold war, was the most robust in terms of economy therefore, it was the one setting new rules for economic development. Thus, it might be fair to say that the world economy was transformed drastically.

Within a globalized, Americanized world, America was willing to gather as much allies as possible in order to keep its high status. According to an article entitled “How did the U.S. trade policy shift after the Cold War?”, America’s major aim was to destroy any effect and attraction left by Communism, by aiding the damaged economies of the world after the war (Dugger). Additionally, Drugger also mentioned, that the US achieved its goal by taking those countries under her wing by being, “...the global consumer of last resort for the export goods of first Germany and Japan — and later all the countries surrounding the USSR and China”, as a result America’s: “democratic and market liberalism became the foundations of future global growth”. Despite the fact that such views insinuate that the world was witnessing a unipolar leadership, “most analysts argue that unipolarity is an “illusion,” a “moment” that “will not last long,” or is already “giving way to multipolarity”” (Wohlforth 6). That is the probability of the world being led by more than one economic force, thus one considers looking into two likely candidates to join the multipolar leadership which are Japan and Russia.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia was left with a destroyed economy and a devastated society. Even with the fall of communism, years later, Russia still underwent an economic crisis, resulted from the failure of Boris Yelstin’s “radical economic reforms including price liberalization, mass privatization, and stabilization of the ruble” (Johnston). Such reforms only resulted into economic

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downturns, and it was not until 1998, that the future started to seem brighter for Russia, despite the fact that the year began with a financial crisis, this still helped into the creation of better opportunities for: “Russia to achieve rapid economic expansion throughout most of the next decade”(Ibid). However, another element was threatening the stability of Russian economy, it is the Russian Mafia, which was:

swallowing up factories, coops, privatized enterprises, real estate, raw materials, currency, gold—a quarter of Russia's economy in 1991, between a third and a half by 1992, according to Russian authorities, 40,000 privatized firms by 1993, according to Russia's Interior Ministry. By the end of 1992, "nearly two-thirds of Russia's commercial structure had ties to the growing criminal world"—this according to President Boris Yeltsin himself (Sterling 94).

The severity of the Russian Mafia's criminal endeavours lies in its continuity and its association to other criminal institutions and families similar to the Japanese Yakuza. Organized Crime in Russia, its impact and unlawful activities continue till nowadays.

Unlike Russia's, Japan's economy flourished during the cold war, since Japan focused on using the global conflict between Russia and America in order to construct a stable and a strong economy other nations would wish to have (Sanger); Yet the sudden end of the war did not give time for Japan to think of a suitable manner to preserve its balance, as a consequence Japan was obliged to leave its old alliances with Asian nations and resort into America(Ibid). According to Harari the outcomes of the crisis of the 1990s continued to linger: “...in the 2000s, as a modest economic recovery in the mid-2000s gave way, as in much of the world, to a deep recession in 2008-2009. Recovery was set back by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.” (3). Aside from that, Japan was also fighting the influence of Organized Crime, known as the Yakuza, which is more than just a traditional criminal sphere, instead: “Developments during the past year have revealed that the yakuza, having bought up real estate and stocks in the late 1980s, are playing a bigger hand in the Japanese economy.” (Graham).

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Hereafter, along with politics and ideology, economy as well appears to be touched by organized crime, as it lingers all over the world in the post-cold era having major influences on the world's development. Taking the case of Russia and Japan enables the reader to figure out to which extent the Russian and Japanese Cartels helped in reshaping the New World Order. Yet before, one must explore the origins and tenants of these two major criminal families.

2.3 Russian Cartel

The Russian cartel, also referred to as the Bratva is a criminal institution operational in more than 50 countries, Russian people, for instance were devastated, believing that it was “the only institution that works in post-communist Russia” (Sterling 90), at any rate, it is the world's largest , most active and covetous collection of organized criminal assemblies. Furthermore, the Russian cartel is considered as the fastest growing mafia in the world. As stated in “The Russian Mafia: A World History”, documentary: “Decades of institutionalized corruption upon the ruins of the Soviet Union, the Russian mafia emerged reformulated as a new gangster class that rapidly arose upon the vengeance from the rebel of the USSR”. Claire Sterling, suitably picturized the cartel's boundaries detailing that it: “consisted of five thousand gangs and some three million helpers, controlling the territory in all fifteen of the former Soviet republics, covering eleven time zones and a sixth of the earth's land mass, now foraging far beyond as worldwide barriers fall” (90). In fact, Scholars believe that most Russian organized crime groups are loosely organized and do not have elaborate levels of structure, yet still: “According to the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), organized crime controlled as much as 40 percent of the turnover in goods and services by 1993” (Handelman). While the Russian Mafia has produced brutal damaging effects on the economy in Russia, it is currently seen as only the third strongest threat to the economy, as its power and presence is one that surpass its country's authority, not to mention the regional one.

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2.3.1 The Bratva or the Russian Mafia

Even though the Russian government decided to shift to a free enterprise, with hopes of reaching an open market type of economy, in order to generate more chances for legal businesses and that mafia will simultaneously decrease its criminal actions, still such a step has its collateral impacts. In the early 1990s, Russia witnessed years of corruption within the government, the mafia have only grown stronger than ever. Moreover, it would never have survived without a corrupted government.

The Russian Mafia touched all scopes of the nation, as mentioned by Claire Sterling, this mafia is like no other:

...its proliferating clans are invading every sphere of life, usurping political power, taking over state enterprises, fleecing the nation of its natural resources, engaged in extortion, theft, forgery, armed assault, contract killing, swindling, drug-running, arms smuggling, prostitution, gambling, loan-sharking, embezzling, money laundering, and black marketing—all this on a monumental and increasingly international scale (90- 91).

Similarly, in a Guardian Newspaper article written by Mark Geotelli, entitled “Gangster’s paradise: how organised crime took over Russia”, "If one had to come up with some kind of league table of global mafias, the Italians are still the most powerful and the richest...But the Russians are the most international”. With that being said, the Russian Mafia is way more intriguing than to be put on a similar plane as other criminal families, according to Robert Levinson, a retired FBI agent’s testimony in a documentary entitled, “The Russian Mafia: A World History”: "I have worked on the Italian American mafia, the Sicilian mafia, the Columbian mafia and the Russian mafia, I would consider the Russian mafia as the most fearsome, most traitorous and most violent of all organized groups I’ve ever worked on ", he also adds, that what distinguished the Russian mafia is its brutality and cleverness along with the typical dexterity of any mafia, since within its many criminal activities they have operated in a

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number of assassinations even within their lines, families and even governmental officials, in other words they have not left any line without being crossed.

For the outside world it is never clear what the Russian Mafia is construed of, as they can only form guesses, but for its members it is a totally distinct world. According to Finckenaur and Waring, it is formed of organized crime group members, who possess an extent of domination over the political and economic spheres in Russia, they could be, dishonest governmental officials or more interestingly ex-communists (171). Features of cruelty and equanimity were not the only characteristics of those criminals, surprisingly in regard to James Finckenaur's statement in a documentary: "these Russian guys have master degrees, they're engineers, they're economists", adding that: " this is a whole different notion of organized crime that we used to have before", indeed such a declaration backs the fact that the Russian Mafia is in fact quite unique, and distinct from any other. With that being said, this also means that this Mafia has a different kind of authority over Russia, as a matter of fact Sterling predicted the latter when suggesting that: "Though few realized it then, the Russian mafia was about to make a big strategic leap—from merely feeding off the economy to owning it (99). So, most likely it even had great influence on other countries as well.

The Bratva had its own spider web spread all over Russia and even beyond. Its many members, sectors and operations remain a puzzle for the world till date. It even included governmental sectors and most importantly the secret Service. The KGB after the fall of the Soviet Unions started to exhibit shady attitudes in association to the Russian Mafia, which made it a subject of enquiry.

2.3.2 The Ex-KGB Government's Role Within the Russian Mafia

What is more fascinating, is that many governmental agencies; eventually, became part of the red mafia. The KGB which stands for Committee for State Security in English, was created initially for the foreign intelligence and domestic security of the former Soviet Union. During the soviet's era, it was the KGB's priority of protecting

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the nation's political leaders, infiltration on many outlaw groups and the general surveillance of the USSR republicans' citizens. After the fall of the Soviet Union, and like any other agencies, the KGB broke down in the early 1990s, the fact of being a powerful and an international secret agency, led a question to arise within its operators, how come the KGB failed to turn aside the obvious collapse of the communist system?

As Robert Pringle reported in the Britannica Newspaper: " despite its vaunted reputation for espionage, the KGB lacked the analytical skills necessary to form an accurate picture of the regime's declining international and domestic situation". Nevertheless, the real concern is that one of the key Characteristics of the impressive propagation of organized crime in today's Russia, is the interconnection with former legal factors existed in the communist perimeter. As far as it can be proved, Russia's governmental structures fell apart just after the collapse, so Ex-KGB officers, authorities and the soviet army joined the mafia's circle for a steady employment. In an article by the Norwich University, entitled, "Consequences of the Collapse of Soviet Union", "Mafia oligarchs seized state-owned assets and enterprises throughout Russia, such as telecommunications and energy networks and industries, and the mafia extorted the public in exchange for providing security and enforcing laws wherever the Russian government was unable to", which was expected as well, that whether these former agents would be reformed into a new concept of secret service or merely be part of one the most dangerous criminal organisation in the world.

In correspondence to the Los Angeles Times, in an article named, "Russian Mafia': KGB Steers Criminals to US careers", a testimony by Anatoly Sharansky was reported suggesting that:

U.S. officials say the Kremlin appears to have, from its point of view, two eminently practical reasons for doing so:

--First, to be rid of the criminals--much as President Fidel Castro did when he opened Cuban jails during the Mariel boatlift a decade ago.

--Second, to create a network in the West for their agents.

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Either ways, it was believed that the KGB was mainly one of the significant reasons of boosting the spread of the red mafia internationally. Today's Mafiosi criminal networks, witnessed the involvement of secret services former agents, that would later on become part of any illegal activity that hold a remarkable profit, including global arm trade, Claire Sterling described their role within the criminal activity as fundamental, she alleged that: “This was bad enough when they were merely dealing with conventional weapons. Today, however, secret agents of every variety are active and prominent players in the nuclear arms traffic, aside from, and often in connivance with, its con men and crooks” (215).

The fact that such a sensitive vicious circle joined the Russian Mafia, increases the Mafia's influence and authority over Russia. The many secret information and weaponry it could reach opened up new markets for this criminal organization to trade on. As a consequence, the effects of this organized criminal group including the Ex-KGB Government should be looked into to fathom the extent of their reach.

2.3.3 The Effects of the Russian Organized Crime

The red mafia dominated many areas of the world, and this would not have been a successful mission if it was not fuelled by a desperate social class. That shift from minor outlaw groups to an international criminal network, was just an amalgam of dishonest officials and ruthless citizens. The collateral damages of Russia's economy were only a portion of an ocean from what the widest range of criminal activities the country witnessed.

The extent of the impact of the mafia on Russia was immeasurable, the various operations by the Russian mafia was as argued by Claire Sterling: “...was how international organized crime could take a huge country captive by 1993, buying up its governing class, looting it systematically, crippling its economic capacity, and suffocating its political will”(17), that is as if the nation just went up-side-down. The attitude of looting, controlling and taking over all legal industrial infrastructures, promoted a belief that, if anything is not made by their own hands, it will be treated

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with power, as mentioned by James O. Finckenauer and Yuri A. Voronin: “One of the prominent characteristics of this economic organized crime is the amount of violence associated with it. Killings of businessmen, assaults, and other violent acts are so common that retaining some kind of security is a must for the survival of any business” (20).

Additionally, in the early 1990s, the privatization policy that the Russian government adopted after the collapse of its former system, was just a shortcut for the mafia to possess a new source of its economical income, in fact, it “...both expanded and solidified the complex relationship that had developed between the state and organized crime. Because of its connections to officialdom and to the shadow economy, organized crime took part in what has become the enormously lucrative scheme of privatization” (Finckenauer and Yuri 7). Witnessing legal businesses swap over to organized crime, was inevitable, as they have "gotten to bed with devil" (Ibid 22), it was very astute of the Russian Businessmen to depend on criminal groups for security and financial purposes rather than the state's authorities. The Russian law would take time to study any case, not to mention all the messy regulations that will obstruct most businesses, at this point the Russian mafia has taken part of its governmental functions, as stated:

Businessmen commonly employ for debt collection criminal groups that operate under the guise of security firms and are legally registered as such. The court system for arbitrating financial disputes is so inefficient and outmoded that procedures can last for months or even years. Thus, it is easier, more efficient, and most important, faster, for businesses to turn to security firms controlled by organized crime than to rely upon the courts (Finckenauer and Yuri 22).

The red mafia was distinctively operating in light and with its diverted means, it operated with anything that was illegal. It is indeed unusual for drug trafficking groups to trade with biohazard containers unless they ingroup high ranked officials. The ex-KGB government only years later, from all over the fallen Soviet Union, gathered into trading with radioactive chemical element, precisely nuclear elements, as Sterling reported: “A solid wall of secret agents—good guys and bad guys, Eastern, Western,

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Southern, and Northern— blocks the view. Secret agents have always been entangled in the arms traffic, traditionally their murkiest domain” (215).

2.4 The Japanese Cartel

It is commonly known that Japanese communities are distinct by their collectivist natures. Since the emergence of the Samurais until modern Japanese era, uniformity is important and above everything. Along many years, Japan went through several chaotic disputes, leading it to resort into reforming the state into a variety of sub-societies that will eventually turn over the history of Japan, among such societies is the Japanese organized criminal group known as the Yakuza. Even though many believed that “The Yakuza Man immortalized in a thousand novels and films (usually financed by the Yakuza) is a gentleman crook of knightly chivalry and suffocating virtue, seen through the mists of eighteenth-century feudal Japan”, in reality the Yakuza was a group of desperados with criminal norms arose from the ashes, and the Yakuza member “...is a villainous thug with talents that even the Sicilian Mafia might envy” (Sterling 46).

2.4.1 The Yakuza as the Leading Japanese Mafia

The Japanese Yakuza was formulated in the 18th century, with three centuries of violence, the yakuza brought the gang culture to a new notion. The ideology of this group is a replica to their success, they are not as international as the Columbian or the Russian mafias, but on the national scale, they were simply involved in every illegal activity in Japan, as Sterling stated:

Operating through three thousand organized gangs, the Yakuza's 100,000 members control Japan's casinos, brothels, houses of pleasure, white slave trade (foreign girls "selling spring"), porno-tourism, nightclubs, theatrical agencies,

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movie studios, publishing houses (largely cranking out Yakuza folktales), sports, trucking, earth moving, loan-sharking, drug trafficking, gunrunning, money laundering, and corporate blackmail; these operations provide an overall income of around \$18 billion a year” (46)

The Yakuza controlled everything, even the darkness under the sun. Subsequently, what truly made the Yakuza fatal for Japan, was its ability to seep within every layer and corrupt every corpus of the Japanese government. At a certain time, between 1950 to 1960, the Japanese cartel held 180000 members, more than the Japanese army itself. This was backed up by what have been mentioned in the Britannica magazine, in an article entitled “Yakuza Japanese Organized crime”: “According to police estimates, gang membership reached its highest level, of some 184,000, in the early 1960s. However, by the early 21st century their numbers had declined to approximately 80,000, divided roughly evenly between regular members and associates”. Nevertheless, the Yakuza did not only possess vices but also virtues as it is known for its noble acts towards Japanese citizens similar to aiding natural catastrophes’ victims, such as “the earthquake victims during the Kōbe earthquake of 1995 and the earthquake and tsunami of 2011” (Ibid). As a matter of fact, the Yakuza gradually started to leave the violent sphere into a more “white-collar crime” by using money for enticement instead of aggression, making them by the coming of the new century, the least violent criminal organization.

The Japanese yakuza looked west as an investment for its illegal activities. As a matter of fact among many, the Japanese Mafia, engaged into a number of enormous illegal network activities that, would ultimately be causing colossal damage on all levels for the U.S government and European communities, as cited in Sterling’s work: “The Yakuza, specializing in gunrunning, drugrunning, money laundering, and corporate blackmail, had made America "a prime investment site" over the previous decade, the Justice Department said” (43). Though for Japan, the yakuza did not only harm the people and economy, as it also contributed into their wellbeing, which is why it is viewed as a necessary evil.

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In regard to the positive influence the *Japan Today*'s article "Yakuza: Kind-hearted criminals or monsters in suits?" reports that:

The yakuza have done their best to portray a noble image within the public sphere. They dress nicely, are respectful and talk politely – when not trying to make money. Violence for the most part happens between gang branches or non-yakuza gangs within Japan. The yakuza punish their own, sometimes infamously forcing the person who did wrong to remove the tip of a finger as a form of apology. The yakuza are even known to reduce some crime. They will often police themselves.

On top of that, the Yakuza members were also found helpful in the direst times, similar to what happened with the Kobe earthquake as mentioned before. They participated into transferring supplies for the needy along with coverlets and medication, by using their large net of contacts, they also provided shelter and transport for the harmed ones.

Certainly, the Yakuza redefined the meaning of organized crime. Even though it shares approximately the same goals and effects as other criminal groups, the Yakuza also proved to have its own values. The fact that the Yakuza put ahead the advantage of the people over their own makes them indeed a source of good deeds, and their bad ones must be considered as a necessary evil, but what about the rest of Asia?

2.4.2 The Impact of the Yakuza Over Asia

Unlike many other organized criminal groups, the Japanese Mafia known as the Yakuza, operated internationally and not only in Japan. Some of the major operations of the Yakuza took place outside of its territory, extending its effect to touch various regions specifically in Asia. Likewise, it was mentioned in an online article entitled "THE JAPANESE YAKUZA: Influence on Japan's International Relations and

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Regional Politics (East Asia and Latin America)”, that: “By the late 1960s and early 1970s, the *yakuza* expanded en masse beyond Japan. They started by going into the Pacific Rim to extend their daily operations that resulted in fulfillment of extravagant incomes” (Chemko).

Moreover, the Yakuza’s spread began early on, specifically in China during the Second World War, whereby they endeavoured to take advantage of china especially in terms of opium trade (Kaplan and Dubro 192).

Yet not only china, 30 years later the yakuza started to infiltrate South Korea, as it is reported:

South Korea, considered an economic leader in the Asian region, has been a prime location for *yakuza* connections to be formed. Also, Korea is the center of their drug trafficking activities, especially in methamphetamine, or what is known to the Japanese as *shabu* or white diamonds. Much of the drug manufacturing occurs in shops set up there (Chemko).

In addition, The Yakuza also participated in other illegal doings including “sex tourism, prostitution around military bases, traffic in women and children, ‘mail-order’ marriages, and pornography”, in various deprived countries of East Asia with the help of local criminal groups (Kaplan and Dubro 201). Along with south Korea, the Philippines also served as a haven for the Yakuza due to the fact that it had a meagre economy as well as a proper atmosphere to foster gangsters and criminals. The atmosphere referred to here, is the prevalent corruption in the country, as such, the Yakuza used it in order to create strong connections with politicians and administrative entities in the Philippines.

As a result, the Yakuza was able to set up bases and offices in the Wall Street of the Philippines named as Makati, as well as to use restaurants and other businesses as a

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cover up for their illegal endeavours. On that note David Kaplan and Alec Dubro reported that:

By the early 1980s, the knowledge of *yakuza* residents became more commonplace. They began working together with Filipino gangs and were able to broaden their reach into the areas of gambling, fraud, and money laundering. But to the *yakuza*, more importantly, the thousands of islands making up the Philippines provide an ideal place for smuggling and gun manufacturing operations. Many law enforcement officials have attempted to crack down on the *yakuza*, dampening their activities by a small degree. However, with so many deep ties at present in the country, it will take a lot more to uproot the Japanese criminal web there. (cited in Chemko)

Hence, Japan could not contain the urge of the Yakuza to enlarge its criminal business, since it did not only influence these nations but also many others. It was believed that by the mid-1970s, the Yakuza also took over the underworld in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Thus, it was able to infect East Asia as a whole.

2.5. The political landscape of the New World Order under the effect of Russian and Japanese cartels

The world after the end of the cold war was known by the shift in power, politics as well as criminality. The rise of organized crime after the cold war, which is the very definition of an unknown quantity, also played its role in affecting the political scenery. According to Katharina Hofman: “The reach of actors of organized crime into the political sphere is, among intimidation and clientelism, mainly based on corruption. The level of organized crime is correlated with the failure in the delivery of basic political goods by the state” (6), which means the only door in which organized crime could enter the world of politics is through corruption, and unethical

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governmental employees. Similarly, in respect to a research paper referred to as “A theory of organized crime, corruption and economic growth”, the Naples Declaration made by the United Nations in 1994, states that organized crime holds a “corrupting influence on fundamental social, economic and political institutions”, which is basically achieved through “violence, intimidation and corruption to earn profit or control territories or markets”(Blackburn et al). Yet the most important question, is related to the organized crime’s influence on the entire world and not only local governments what kind of influence do they exert on the world politics? Specifically, in regard to the Russian and Japanese cartels by taking control on the east and west.

2.5.1 The Political Implications of Organized Crime in the West

Even though the Russian Mafia originated locally, its activities are better known and reported globally. In fact, the Russian mob was known by its spread in western Europe and the US terrains, whereby evidence and information have been congregated through time by reporters, through court archives and the publication of eavesdrops. It was also unveiled by witnesses in the court of law. As referred to in “the CIA testimony in US Congress, ‘Russian organised crime has quickly become an international menace, conducting operations far beyond Russian borders and reaching even our own shores’” (cited in Weenink 1). Nonetheless, the major concern and peril of the Russian organized crime is its influence on politics.

The bond between the Russian mafia and politics flourished even during the cold war, based and triggered by corruption, which is what was conveyed in “the Red Mafia: A Legacy of Communism” by Annelise Anderson: “The Russian Mafia In the 1960s and 1970s - and on into the 1980s - the Soviet economy was characterized by extensive illegal market activity involving systematic bribery of people in positions of power, which was primarily in the hands of the Communist Party”. Such an idea walks in accordance with Sterling’s suggestion that communist rulers and the Russian Mafia became at a certain time quite useful and lucrative for one another (48). That is why

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the Russian Mafia was extremely fearful, because of its sneakiness and persistence to infiltrate politics through any means, which is what Boris Yeltsin dreaded, that is the impact of this criminal group on the government, and thus he reported that "organized crime is persistently trying to gain access to Big Politics and the machinery of state"(Boylan).

With international goals, the Russian Mafia did not only intervene and infect Russian politics, it had even bigger plans, aiming at contaminating European territories. The Russian Mafia along with its other criminal associates "were investing in government bonds, real estate, building societies, hotels and casinos, finance and leasing companies, banks and insurance companies. They were buying up airlines and trucking concerns to handle their own distribution, acquiring shares in newspapers and radio and TV stations, and donating to political parties (Sterling 62). This only displays the cunning aptitude of the Russian Mob in order to take over Europe by involving itself not only in financial activities but even political ones. The expansion of the Russian Mafia reached even the United states, as it:

intrudes in every field of Western concern: the nascent free market, privatization, disarmament, conversion of the military-industrial complex, foreign humanitarian relief and financial aid, even state reserves of currency and gold. Furthermore, it has begun to intrude directly on the rest of Europe and the United States: 'looking at the West as a wolf looks at sheep' (Cited in Sterling 90)

Namely, the Russian Mafia used its financial actions, in order to dig deep into America and Europe's political systems, and this goes hand in hand with the analysis that adheres, that having great economic influence reflects an equal political impact (Finckenauer and Voronin7)

In respect to the western world's response to the Russian Mafia, it has been reported that "The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has established task forces to deal with the Russian Mafiya in New York, Los Angeles, and Miami" (Boylan). Boylan also advanced that the post-cold war government in Washington was looking for ways in order "to combat the rise of crime and criminal elements in Russia... Much

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effort [was] being made by the United States and other democratic nations to assist Russia in its metamorphosis from a corrupt totalitarian regime to a popular democracy”. But still, due to the fact that international barriers do not allow criminal law to transcend beyond borders “a uniform system of transnational criminal enforcement does not exist...As a result, the system fails to recognize the international nature of modern organized crime, creating difficulties in implicating international groups such as the Russian Mafia”(Vassalo 174-175). Therefore, it is quite impossible to demolish organized crime.

The extent of the power of organized crime seems to be immeasurable, since it spreads larger and larger with time. Dominating not only economy and finance to reach politics, only extenuates the dangers of such an institution. An institution, that was and still is taking over the west, paralleled by a similar force in the east.

2.5.2 The Political Implications of Organized Crime in the East

The criminal organization which is mostly believed to have dominated the eastern world, was the Japanese Yakuza. It is known for its impact not only in Japan but also on the international level when it comes to business, economy and even politics. Due to the large extent of its contacts all over the globe, the yakuza gained enough leverage legally and illegally to reach sensitive spheres. Besides, such an influence enabled this criminal organization to spread its wings to fit a globalized world. However, it is pivotal first to tackle the impact of the yakuza on local governments, then move to the international scene and its reaction.

The Yakuza had a strong bond with the Japanese government mainly before the end of the cold war, as it was alleged that it even participated in securing major political figures. Similarly, major politicians would attend memorials of top yakuza members. Yet this kind of bond was not always agreeable, as: “...Shame has kept the Japanese government from revealing the Yakuza's true strength until very recently, or the fact that it has hooked 600,000 Japanese on "ice" (crystal methamphet-amine)—a world record. (Sterling 46).Along with dominating domestic spheres and the

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intricacies left behind the yakuza's footprints, similar processes are most likely playing out in the Asian nations. The southeast Asian areas, mainly controlled or supervised by the Yakuza were only a replica to what was occurring in Japan, with gangs joining the organization.

Correspondingly, criminal networks went larger and nation's officials were target number one. Organized crime in general is defined as a highly centralized operation that aims to jeopardize the political block and to tear off public resources for self-benefits, the Yakuza however, fit to that definition. In other words, criminal organizations play a distinctive role in the course of political governments, as in May 3rd to 4th of 2000, ASEAN held a meeting regarding the problem in Jakarta, where China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Pakistan were all in attendance as observers. According to KanisDursin, at the seminar, Lieutenant Colonel Gilberto Abanto from the Philippines Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces gave a speech, mentioning how the issue has the potential to affect national security and economic development in Southeast Asia (cited in Chemko).

However, in the U.S territories, it is believed that in the early years of the 21st century, the US government declared war against the Yakuza as their immense controller on various sectors of income which were handled illegally. The US authorities presumed that within the government, the yakuza collaborated to enhance their economical investment, in different important states of the country. As Claire Sterling postulated:

Around the time of that sokaiya visit nearly a quarter of a century ago, a young U.S. Federal Attorney called Michael Sterett warned, after coming upon the Yakuza in Honolulu, 'There are now shadow governments in the United States and Japan that collect their own taxes, make their own rules, and enforce their own laws. An alliance between the Yakuza and U.S. organized crime means that drugs and guns and huge amounts of money will be moving across the world accountable to no one but the mobs themselves. It means an international shadow government' (159)

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Meanwhile, as reported in an online article titled “The US Declares War On The Yakuza”, on July 24th, President Barack Obama called for war against The Japanese mafia, by AN order which stated that “(the yakuza) are becoming increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the United States; they are increasingly entrenched in the operations of foreign governments and the international financial system, thereby weakening democratic institutions, degrading the rule of law, and undermining economic markets...”(cited in Adelstein)

Henceforward, the impact of the yakuza proved to be similar or even more dangerous than that of the Russian Mafia. Thanks to globalization, and the wide spread of the Yakuza it became more influential concerning various spheres and larger terrains to reach the global scenery. Such a menace had and still endangers national and international securities. That is why actions started to be taken both locally and through various international institutions to minimise and diminish the yakuza effects as much as possible before it is too late.

2.6 Conclusion

Certainly, a world that entered two calamitic wars and a cold war was not going to get out of it the same way it was before. The post-cold war era painted a new world characterised by various shifts, wherein, the empowerment and evolution of organized crime is one of these changes. This chapter focused on the post-cold war changes as well as unravelled the reality of two major criminal groups that rose and originated in Russia and Japan. In which, these two criminal families proved to transcend into the international scenery, and have a considerable amount of influence on the world.

General Conclusion

Criminality and unlawful acts existed since the beginning of time, however, even such acts developed with the world's change. The catastrophes which reformulated the world also contributed into the evolution of crime and mainly organized criminal groups. Likewise, these groups found a fertile space to manifest their illegitimate actions, in a new world order.

The theoretical chapter of this research paper tackled the horrific calamities that hit the world during the first half of the 20th century, in relation to the fight for power and leadership of the world. It also continued to look into the cold war which directly tailed those wars, that is a psychological war aimed at giving birth to one supreme power, whereby the United States of America took that role. The rise of the United States to power, also resulted and was accompanied with worldly conflicts which had to be inculcated within this chapter, along with the US dominion on the post-cold war era, through a new system ruling the world known as the New World Order.

Coordinately, the second chapter, endeavoured to look into this changing world and the New World Order under the shadow of organized crime. The rise and empowerment of this spectacle mainly occurred after the fall of the Soviet Union. Several criminal organizations started to have great influence around the world encompassing the Russian and Japanese Mafias. These two major criminal groups started to infiltrate various domains including the most prominent ones that is economy and politics. Consequently, this chapter focused on the implications of the new system which governed the world after the cold war, as well as the effects Russian and Japanese criminal groups had on it.

In that case, and after looking into such elements it had been fathomed that; indeed, organized crime had played a pivotal role in reshaping the new world. A world which became known by criminal families, drug trafficking, nuclear powers trade and many other terrifying deeds which the world have not witnessed before. In accordance, when taking the case of the Russian and Japanese cartels, one has shed light on numerous operations conducted by these groups which did not only touch their native countries, but even the world as a whole reaching various domains. The Russian and Japanese mafias proved to have great influence on world economy touching various nations including the United States of America, Europe, China and others.

Besides that, they have also shown to have a considerable impact when it came to world politics, by using their illegal methods.

To conclude, I certainly believe that the effects of organized crime have been great through out history. Yet I also believe that if such a situation is not taken under strict measures, these two criminal groups will definitely have more impact. An impact the world might regret.

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