

# Mature Peacekeeping Operations as Facilitators of Organized Crime

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## Abstract:

This paper will attempt to demonstrate a link between background societal conditions that facilitate the growth of organized crime and traits common to Mature Peacekeeping Operations. There are many catalysts for organized crime, and the paper will begin by defining and discussing a number of the more common ones. Each catalyst, or facilitator, of organized crime will be analyzed for its existence in mature peace support operations. A significant amount of commonalities between conditions of peacekeeping operations and facilitators of organized crime will indicate that, as a minimum, peacekeeping missions tend to exist in background conditions that favor the growth of organized crime. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina will then serve as an example to these correlations. Further discussion will recommend initiatives for peace support operations that could assist in lessening the inadvertent promotion of regional organized crime.

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## Introduction

Operational experience and research have suggested that an arena of war provides opportunities for the growth of regional crime.<sup>1</sup> The social and governmental disorganization (or disintegration in more severe cases) that both accompanies and follows war can be shown to, in a general sense, promote illegal and self-destructive activity. This then translates into the local growth of parasitic crime, which further attracts regional criminal organizations.

Are modern peacekeeping operations, with their usual deployment into similarly conflict-rich scenarios, also a catalyst for the growth of crime? When brought into a region that is in a state of conflict or low-intensity warfare, history has repetitively proven that peacekeepers are capable of, and perhaps best at, calming the human environment and reducing the incident rate of overt violence. We now have examples of peacekeeping missions that have been operating for several years and, although the measurable success of the mission can be debated, the fact that the local economy and society has in some degree been revitalized can be quantitatively proven.<sup>2</sup> The internationally-sponsored missions in the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Haiti and even Iraq are only too quick to point out that the region is giving visual indicators of economic and social repair.<sup>3</sup> On the ground, references are made to such events as people walking to work, children going to school, vendors selling goods in their kiosks, and cars on the road as proof of this. In an immediate and gratifying sense, these indicators do provide justification that the peacekeeping mission is meeting with success.

At the same time, criminals, and specifically organized criminal organizations, are featuring more and more on regular United Nations Security Council mission updates.<sup>4</sup> At the same time that people are regaining their feet, crime is making the most of the conflict or crisis to irrecoverably imbed itself into the new society. The world has seen Mafioso states created in such places as Russia and Albania, previously solid states that were recently subject to significant societal upheaval. In the interim, they have become states where leaders of criminal syndicates feature on lists of the most powerful regional businessmen and more than half of the state's GDP is seized or extracted by organized crime.<sup>5</sup> Recognizing this causal link between extreme social transformation and the potential growth of organized crime, it is possible that Mafioso states are today being

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<sup>1</sup> Vincenzo Ruggiero, Nigel South and Ian Taylor. *The New European Criminology: Crime and Social Order in Europe: Crime and Social Order in Europe*. (London: Routledge, 1998). p. 463.

<sup>2</sup> For examples on the 1990s missions in the Balkans, see European Commission: *The Stabilization & Association Process for South-East Europe*. Third Annual Report, March 2004. [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/see/sap/rep3/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/sap/rep3/index.htm).

<sup>3</sup> Derek Baldwin, "Canada's first Haiti troops return from Peace Mission" *Kingston Whig Standard*, March 23, 2004.

<sup>4</sup> See the United Nations Secretary-General Reports for examples. Most of the recent reports mention organized crime as a topic of concern. Specific examples can be found in these reports: UN SC S/2004/251 25 March 2004: Fifteenth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UN SC S/2004/230-A/58/742 19 March 2004: Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, and UN SC S/2004/180 5 March 2004: Progress Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea.

<sup>5</sup> Bruno Leone. (Ed.) *Organized Crime*. San Diego: (Greenhaven Press, Inc., 1999). p. 125.

created today (or being allowed to be created) in areas where peacekeeping operations are deployed.

Recognizing this danger to international development, are there characteristics of internationally-sponsored peace support operations that facilitate the growth of organized crime?

## Outline

This paper will attempt to demonstrate a link between background societal conditions that facilitate the growth of organized crime and traits common to Mature Peacekeeping Operations. There are many catalysts for organized crime,<sup>6</sup> and the paper will begin by defining and discussing a number of the more common ones. Each catalyst, or facilitator, of organized crime will be analyzed for its existence in mature peace support operations. A significant amount of commonalities between conditions of peacekeeping operations and facilitators of organized crime will indicate that, as a minimum, peacekeeping missions tend to exist in background conditions that favor the growth of organized crime. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina will then serve as an example to these correlations. Further discussion will recommend initiatives for peace support operations that could assist in lessening the inadvertent promotion of regional organized crime.

## PART I: Understanding Links between Organized Crime and Peacekeeping

### Organized Crime: A Definition

Definitions must come first. The term organized crime has enjoyed social and newsworthy popularity, although it exists without a universally-accepted definition.<sup>7</sup> Modern definitions tend to lack both vision and consensus, in that they focus on the activities of organized crime rather than the structural characteristics of criminal organizations. With organized crime syndicates continually evolving in new directions and lacking standardization in operating procedures, it is understandably difficult to come up with a holistic and timeless definition. As an attempted solution to this scholarly problem, a compiling of definitions, both scholarly and governmental, was conducted in 1985 in order to distill the common elements across them.<sup>8</sup> The common elements were found to be (in decreasing order of prominence):

- 1) An organized, continuous hierarchy
- 2) Rational profit through crime
- 3) Use of force or threat
- 4) Corruption of public officials

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<sup>6</sup> Denny F. Pace and Jimmie C. Styles. *Organized Crime: Concepts and Control*. (Toronto: Prentice-Hall of Canada, Ltd., 1975). p. 21-25.

<sup>7</sup> Donald R. Liddick. *An Empirical, Theoretical, and Historical Overview of Organized Crime*. (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 1999). p. 31.

<sup>8</sup> Donald R. Liddick. *An Empirical, Theoretical, and Historical Overview of Organized Crime*. (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 1999). p. 34.

- 5) Public demand for services
- 6) Monopoly control of illegal markets
- 7) Restricted membership
- 8) Non-Ideological
- 9) Specialization of work tasks
- 10) Codes of secrecy
- 11) Extensive planning

It is not the intent of this paper to dwell on an exact definition. The following definition (used by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation) serves to emphasize the most common of these elements while serving as an adequate reference for the analysis that follows:

The FBI defines organized crime as any group having some manner of a formalized structure and whose primary objective is to obtain money through illegal activities. Such groups maintain their position through the use of actual or threatened violence, corrupt public officials, graft, or extortion, and generally have a significant impact on the people in their locales, region, or the country as a whole.<sup>9</sup>

#### Mature Peacekeeping Operations: A Definition

For the purposes of this analysis, the term: Mature Peacekeeping Operation will refer to an operation for which mounting and deployment is complete, the conflict has ceased, local tensions have relaxed somewhat, and the international community is focusing its efforts on sending the region down the long road towards effective and stable self-sufficiency. On a conflict resolution model, this general scenario would be found on the bell curve's right hand side, where the downward slope is beginning to even out towards a stable society.

A Mature Peacekeeping Operation is not defined by complete stagnation nor is it defined by rapid societal change. It exists between the two. In a Mature Peacekeeping Operation, progress is being made and self-sufficiency is being introduced by the partnership slowly, with no more than the occasional outbreak of violence. It is very much a full peacekeeping partnership at this time, with plenty of local and international NGOs, contractors and businesses operating in the area.

Today's world offers several examples that fit into this definition of Mature Peacekeeping Operations. Bosnia, Kosovo, and Kabul (but not the remainder of Afghanistan) all meet this general term. The intervention in Iraq will also apply once the current violence is contained sufficiently to allow the international community to begin rehabilitation without an overriding fear for security. All of these Mature Peacekeeping Operations face a long road to societal recovery but maintain the vulnerability of renewed conflict along every step of that path. It is important to ensure, as much as possible, that external influences (in this case, organized crime) do not jeopardize the international efforts made thus far.

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<sup>9</sup> Taken directly from the Federal Bureau of Investigation website:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/orgcrime/glossary.htm>

## Facilitators of Organized Crime / Conditions of Mature Peacekeeping Operations

The distillation of societal conditions that facilitate organized criminal operations is an enterprise that has been pursued across a palette of academic disciplines. Social theorists, political scientists, economists, and criminologists all have their own published ideas on what promotes criminal activity on an organized scale. Each claims legitimacy according to their unique perspectives. This does not necessarily mean that the arguments and proofs contradict themselves across academic disciplines; in fact, many of their ideas are complementary and support each other.

The following 6 conditions will be examined in the course of the following pages. Each condition will be assessed as both a facilitator of organized crime and a condition of Mature Peacekeeping Operations.

- 1) A Culturally Permissive Society
- 2) Robust Transportation System
- 3) Lax or Incompetent Police / Justice System
- 4) Political Instability
- 5) Local Concentration of Disposable Wealth
- 6) Conscious Class Differences

### 1. A Culturally Permissive Society.<sup>10</sup>

#### a) As a Facilitator of Organized Crime

Subculture theories of organized crime hold that the social values of the informal groups to which an individual belongs will have a large impact on that individual's actions. This will occur largely through that group's definition and manipulation of acceptable morals and ethics.<sup>11</sup> The group-approved list of acceptable behavior is not formulated in a vacuum but instead is defined through external influences. These external influences cannot be solely held to blame, for the social group can itself inculcate behavior that is neither rational nor necessary for survival. For example, although there is a relationship between regional poverty and the incidence of certain crimes,<sup>12</sup> it has also been observed that certain social groups will, because of exposure to harsh survival conditions in the past, set a trend of delinquency whose social acceptance is passed from generation to generation. Though societal conditions may change, the criminal behavior in question has been accepted by the group and learned by the individual without any rational necessity for its continuation. Many social groups thus

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<sup>11</sup> Donald R. Liddick. *An Empirical, Theoretical, and Historical Overview of Organized Crime*. (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 1999). p. 193.

<sup>12</sup> Howard Jones. *Crime, Race and Culture: A Study in a Developing Country*. (Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, 1981). p. 110.

suffer from self-destructive behaviors that are passed on to individuals who do not have that third-person perspective to recognize the benefits of unlearning their damaging lessons. Groups that have lived in depressed conditions may continue to harbor an acceptance of illegal action as a survival mechanism. Organized criminals can then gain entry into that social group more easily and with less concern of group alarm or repercussion.

Social groups can also have a more active influence by the internal, aggressive promotion of criminal activity. In this way a permissive social group may actually evolve into an organization that sponsors or engages in organized crime as a business venture. This sort of group action can only take place when the group holds sufficient influence over its members to ensure their loyalty and dedication.

In these ways the cohesion of a permissive social group can influence the growth of organized crime. However, the disintegration of social groups can also have a negative effect on the individual ability to resist engaging in criminal activity. Today's highly mobile world, with its continually growing proportion of transient workers and travelers, disengages a considerable percentage of people from the influence of their home social group. Social groups that are disintegrating have less influence and are therefore less able to impose restriction on their members' behavior.<sup>13</sup> Previously established social norms will have less influence over the actions of an individual within the group and make him more prone to manipulation under new external influences.<sup>14</sup>

Criminal organizations may seek to take advantage of this social disarray and ally themselves with portions of the local population.<sup>15</sup> Because of the opportunistic and parasitic nature of crime, this sort of partnership ultimately benefits the criminal organization more than the local populace. This partnership is also easier to accomplish when that organization establishes a common ground with the population in question. A common ground is in turn most easily formed and strengthened against an external enemy or irritant.<sup>16</sup> Thus, the existence of a readily identifiable external group (such as the government or an international organization) allows the criminal organization to promote its commonality with the local population (usually aided through common ethnic backgrounds) and earn some degree of cooperation from them. The fostering of a relationship between the criminal organization and the social group may also involve gifts or benefits offered as goodwill to that group. This endears them to the local population who, although they may be unable to actively support the criminal's operations, may side with him against government efforts to stem his livelihood, from which they earn a residual benefit. A previously antagonistic population can become permissive towards organized crime under these sorts of incentive programs. In general,

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<sup>13</sup> Jeffery Scott McIlwain. *Organized Crime: A Social Network Approach*. *Crime, Law & Social Change*, Vol. 32 (1999).

<sup>14</sup> Howard Jones. *Crime, Race and Culture: A Study in a Developing Country*. (Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, 1981). p. 112.

<sup>15</sup> Frank Bovenkerk, Dina Siegel & Damian Zaitch. *Organized Crime and Ethnic Reputation Manipulation*. *Crime, Law & Social Change*, Vol 39 (2003). This is most often done to build contacts and ease future operations.

<sup>16</sup> Peter C. Van Duyne. *Organized Crime, Corruption and Power*. *Crime, Law & Social Change*, Vol 26 (1997).

any common background and permissive social culture between organized crime and the local population will be exploited to the full advantage of that criminal organization.<sup>17</sup>

#### b) As a Condition of Mature Peacekeeping Operations

Peacekeeping operations have the capacity to wreak havoc with an established culture's norms of social behavior. This is largely due to the necessity for or opportunities of creating relations with the international community through the complete peacekeeping partnership. Regardless of how much effort the international intervention expends in order to ensure the continuation of local customs, portions of the local population will adopt the language and working culture of the interventionists in order to conduct smoother transactions and gain an edge over their competitors. In an environment where the international peace organizations are the only sources of stable and well-paid employment, there will be no shortage of entrepreneurs adopting international customs and behaviors in order to secure a piece of that wealth.

The incremental introduction of new social norms into a peacekeeping locale is not the issue; the issue is the rapidity and severity of this introduction. In a Mature Peacekeeping Operation, the complete partnership will include most or all of the following entities: a multi-national armed force promoting security and stability, an international organization sponsoring or managing the peace building/humanitarian mission, and a multitude of non-governmental organizations from a variety of backgrounds. The onus of the local population to deal with all of these organizations (in order to best reap the benefits) promotes the adoption of an international variety of social norms and values, some of which will have, at the very least, subtle contradictions. The sheer magnitude of external social norm pressures can cause confusion and division over what is moral, legal, ethical and accepted behavior for the group<sup>18</sup>.

In this growing morass of social norms, the limits of acceptable conduct become ambiguously defined and convoluted. Keeping in mind that the line between organized crime and legitimate business can be very unclear,<sup>19</sup> this confusion towards acceptable behavior tends to facilitate the jump from legal to illegal action for that individual or group that does not possess a strict social definition of right and wrong. The fact that social limits of ethical conduct can often conflict with international legal definitions further adds to the possibility of the group condoning activities that the international community does not.

The influence of the social group upon the individual can also undergo transition in the peacekeeping environment. Not only may individuals gain much unprecedented exposure to international agencies and organizations, but the introduction of such organizations may also induce an increase in individual traffic across the region in question. A percentage of local employees and entrepreneurs will find themselves traveling where there was earlier no need to do so. This incremental increase in individual travel will add to social group fragmentation and lessen the overall influence

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<sup>17</sup> Frank Bovenkerk, Dina Siegel & Damian Zaitch. *Organized Crime and Ethnic Reputation Manipulation*. *Crime, Law & Social Change*, Vol 39 (2003).

<sup>18</sup> Jeffery Scott McIlwain. *Organized Crime: A Social Network Approach*. *Crime, Law & Social Change*, Vol. 32 (1999).

<sup>19</sup> Leone, Bruno. (Ed.) *Organized Crime*. San Diego: (Greenhaven Press, Inc., 1999). p. 108.

the group has on the individual, who is slowly distancing himself from his roots. This will in itself not cause complete social disintegration, but may influence a social migration towards individualism. With less influence from the group, the individual is free to act according to his wishes and thus is less encumbered with group-reinforced morals that would otherwise prohibit the engaging in illegal activity.

In these ways, a Mature Peacekeeping Operation can put a dent into the influence of local social groups. Regardless of the attitude with which the international community faces the behaviors of these groups, in most cases these groups have proven their historical worth in stabilizing communities, preventing widespread anarchy and ensuring some degree of societal survival. The less focused (through confusion of the intervention environment) or less influential the social group is upon the individual, the increased likelihood of engaging in individualistic behavior, which within certain personalities and upon certain opportunities will be manifested as criminal.<sup>20</sup>

## 2. Robust Transportation System

### a) As a Facilitator of Organized Crime

Organized crime, just like any other business venture that may deal in the movement of material goods, will more likely flourish in a city tied into regional transportation routes.<sup>21</sup> The amount of traffic (and corresponding demand for transport systems) will encourage the growth of population and business in the area. Organized crime, which is liable to branch out into several areas of business rather than stay with one type of good or service,<sup>22</sup> cannot forever avoid the physical necessity of supply routes. The survival of organized criminal business demands diversity and flexibility in its transportation possibilities, however. Whereas a legitimate business can afford to maximize its profit by minimizing routes used and shipping in bulk, for instance, organized criminal traffic will willingly induce extra costs by maximizing diversity in routes used and splitting shipments into smaller quantities. The extra cost of transportation is offset by the decreased risk of detection. Avoidance of detection by law enforcement is a very important component of organized business; any seizure of a shipment results in an instant loss of profit. Any region that allows for maximization of this avoidance (through sheer opportunities for alternate transportation) will be attractive to organized crime.

A seaport will hold specific attraction because of the relative laxness in cargo inspection today.<sup>23</sup> Although it is possible that border security will tighten in the future, its advocates constantly fight against the pressures of business, which wishes to maintain and increase the openness of borders in order to facilitate trade and speed transportation

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<sup>20</sup> Peter C. Van Duyne. *Organized Crime, Corruption and Power*. Crime, Law & Social Change, Vol 26 (1997).

<sup>21</sup> Denny F. Pace and Jimmie C. Styles. *Organized Crime: Concepts and Control*. (Toronto: Prentice-Hall of Canada, Ltd., 1975). p. 22.

<sup>22</sup> UNODC Centre for International Crime Prevention. *Typologies of Transnational Organized Crime Groups*. Mark Shaw.

<sup>23</sup> San Francisco Chronicle, "Avoiding Terrorist Attack: Our vulnerable Seaport security" April 7, 2003. The events of 9/11 have served to illuminate deficiencies in seaport and airport security for the United States, but the lack of seaport security can be applied anywhere in the globe. <http://feinstein.senate.gov/03Speeches/seaportoped.htm>

of goods. The incremental amount of criminal activity that would be suppressed if control were heightened is simply not seen as worth the administrative trouble and increased transportation costs to business.

The threat of terrorism is having a greater weight in affecting border regulations and security. Some states are now pursuing stringent initiatives on monitoring the shipment of goods across borders.<sup>24</sup> It is under the umbrella of counter-terrorism that these initiatives are taking place: the potential damage (in life and property) from successful terrorist action in general outweighs the direct damage caused by the movement of smuggled or illegal goods. Because there is less of a visible, overt link between the movement of illegal goods and societal damage, controlling the shipment of illegal goods is often delegated to the sidelines of national security policy.<sup>25</sup>

The entire regional transportation system must be seen as a whole, with each method of transportation contributing to the potential flow in and out of that region. A higher transportation flow into a region will translate into a higher potential criminal flow and a correspondingly increased ability for that criminal flow to operate undiscovered.<sup>26</sup>

#### b) As a Condition of Mature Peacekeeping Operations

Given the condition of much of the world's developing or semi-developed regions, an international peacekeeping operation is likely to exert widespread wear on the regional transportation system. In many cases, the existent system will be found inadequate even to meet the needs of the region before the internationals arrive. One of the requirements of a nation building exercise (in order to support the requirements of both military and economic traffic) will be a modernization of the existing transportation routes. This will better enable the military component of the mission to transit the region and encourage that economic traffic (heavy trucks) that simply cannot reach an area if suitable routes do not exist. This repair and continued maintenance of the transportation system will encourage future economic partnerships at all levels and set the stage for regional self-sufficiency.

With legitimate traffic comes illegitimate traffic, however. Inadvertently, the effort of the international mission in improving the transportation system is going to have the lingering, but significant, effect of encouraging criminal organizations to use those routes for the same reasons.

### 3. Lax or Incompetent Police / Justice System

#### a) As a Facilitator of Organized Crime

It has been noted that the social group to which the individual belongs will establish limits of socially acceptable behavior. At times these social limits will come

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<sup>24</sup> OSCE: Contribution of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to the Fifth High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional Organizations, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 29-30 July 2003.

<sup>25</sup> Stergios Skaperdas. *The Political Economy of Organized Crime: Providing Protection When The State Does Not*. Economics of Governance, Vol. 2 (2001). There are exceptions, such as those illegal goods that directly support terrorist efforts, such as explosives and nuclear devices.

<sup>26</sup> Council on Foreign Relations. *Maritime Transportation and Port Security*. April 11, 2002. [http://www.cfr.org/pub4547/stephen\\_e\\_flynn/maritime\\_transportation\\_and\\_port\\_security.php](http://www.cfr.org/pub4547/stephen_e_flynn/maritime_transportation_and_port_security.php)

into conflict with what is regionally allowable by law. If the legal framework is weak, through either ineffective policing or lax judicial process, then the possibility of being caught will be perceived to be lower and incentive for committing the crime (through influence of the social group or possibility of individual gain) correspondingly higher.

The competency of the local police and the severity of the legal system factor heavily into the local incident rate of crime. There is a viewpoint on crime that explains its occurrence as a simple cost/benefit analysis performed from an individual perspective.<sup>27</sup>

A simplified portrayal of the cost benefit analysis would be:

Likelihood of Committing A Crime	Proportional To...	Inversely Proportional To...
	Perceived Reward	Chance of Being Caught Severity of the Punishment

According to this chart, a lower chance of being caught and a lower severity of punishment will translate into an increased likelihood of crime. In organized crime, the hierarchy of the organization will determine the exact perspective for conducting this analysis: it can be a group or an individual perspective, depending on who makes the decisions for that group. The importance is that, just as a legitimate business conducts a cost/benefit analysis for its upcoming projects, so does an organized criminal organization conduct cost/benefit analysis for its upcoming operations. An ineffective or lax police and justice system would simply decrease the cost of the criminal operations over time, which would in turn encourage more criminality.

The idea that organized crime is operated as a legitimate business holds weight in organizational or economic circles but does not necessarily account for the social or political influence that an organized criminal group can exert on its surroundings. Legitimate businesses will attempt to use favoritism or the granting of gifts in order to secure contracts but criminal organizations have a modus operandi that outweighs all the techniques of their legal counterparts: the threat of violence. The application of this threat can be a force multiplier and grants that criminal organization a definite advantage, assuming it can protect these operations from legal persecution.

If the state does not possess a monopoly on the threat and use of force, then it will lose its legitimacy (in the eyes of the population) and its effectiveness (against these criminal organizations). This will lead to further encouragement for illegal operations and further decline of state (in this case, police and judicial) power.

#### b) As a Condition of Mature Peacekeeping Operations

The police and justice system will be areas of jurisdiction where peacekeeping missions will likely have some mandate, if there is some international issue with their capabilities or operating procedures. At the very least, the peacekeeping mission may receive some oversight responsibility in order to ensure the local police system remains focused and committed to success.

Historical data will prove that police systems in politically unstable areas have been generally subject to incompetence (through lack of numbers, equipment or training)

<sup>27</sup> See both Peter C. Van Duyne. *Organized Crime, Corruption and Power*. Crime, Law & Social Change, Vol 26 (1997). and Felia Allumand Jennifer Sands. *Explaining organized crime in Europe: Are economists always right?* Crime, Law & Social Change, Vol 41. (2004).

and corruption (both internal and external).<sup>28</sup> In the last decade, the missions in the Balkans, Middle East and Africa have all been confronted with non-effective or non-existent police forces. As a result, police officers had to be trained or recruited in order to ensure the overall operation had the support it required. An effective police force is also a precondition for continued success once the peace operation is over and has left the region.

At times, the peacekeeping mission itself will create stress within the police or justice system by forcing a change of personnel or procedures. Local police officers may be implicated in corruption or other criminal charges during the course of the conflict and it is not uncommon that a portion be discharged after the subsequent investigations.<sup>29</sup> Those who are guilty of improper conduct will strongly resist their own dismissal. They will probably have supporters within the local population whose sympathetic anger or disappointment will only increase the social divide between international efforts and local cooperation. Subversive activity (in the form of increased local crime) carried out after this dismissal may endear the population towards a reinstatement of dismissed officers, further reducing legitimacy of the international peace building force and supporting corrupt, criminal elements.

A police or justice system under an international peacekeeping mission may not intentionally be lax or incompetent. It may, however, be inexperienced or insufficient to deal with local issues. It is in the best interest of organized criminals to have some contacts within the local police and justice system, and there will be considerable effort expended to achieve this unlawful partnership.

#### 4. Political Instability

##### a) As a Facilitator of Organized Crime

One of organized crime's primary characteristics is a corruption of public officials. The involvement of public officials in the organized criminal system offers a tremendous benefit to the organization's activities. Organized criminals run their syndicates as businesses and will maximize their profit largely by the same best business practices that legal businesses engage in.<sup>30</sup> The difference is that criminal business cannot operate without attracting legal and police attention to their operations. Control of strategically selected public officials can help to smooth the criminal syndicate's operations and distract this attention. A local government (with key officials sponsored by organized crime) that simply turns a blind eye towards illegal activity can be sufficient to ensure that criminal organization's survival.

Due to monetary limitations and the invulnerability of some moral characters, there is a limit in the number of officials that can be bribed or otherwise influenced. The nature of these criminal-political relationships changes as the criminal organization becomes more institutional and formalized. In their initial stages of development, organized criminal groups are largely predatory in an attempt to aggressively increase

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<sup>28</sup> Stergios Skaperdas. *The Political Economy of Organized Crime: Providing Protection When The State Does Not*. Economics of Governance, Vol. 2 (2001).

<sup>29</sup> SC/8019 dated 3 Mar 2004.

<sup>30</sup> Donald R. Liddick. *An Empirical, Theoretical, and Historical Overview of Organized Crime*. (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 1999). p. 198.

their market share of product and protect it as much as possible. As the market becomes saturated and the criminal group's products become an integral part of that region's society, the criminal organization will initiate the move towards a more symbiotic relationship with the ruling organization it has been circumventing.<sup>31</sup> This symbiosis takes the form of informal and formal agreements between the criminal group and individuals in that ruling government and administrative system. The criminal organization attempts to permanently secure its freedom of action within this forum of political instability or governmental weakness. The symbiosis will eventually become integrated enough that the organized criminals will have a stake in the ruling organization's continued survival and prosperity.

For example, in Russia's new economy, the sudden inrush of capitalism coupled with the eager and rich criminal syndicates to create a partnership between government and organized white-collar crime that is truly difficult to separate.<sup>32</sup> Because there is little threat of persecution, gangsters have become legitimate businessmen while maintaining their criminal techniques. The government and organized crime have entered into an exploitive partnership that the government is unwilling and unable to dissolve. In a region where everyday quality of life is a widespread issue, it is unreasonable to assume that criminal influence will not infiltrate the ruling parties. It cannot be over-emphasized that the danger is in the long-term government-criminal partnerships that will establish a constant and significant drain on the efficiency and profit of the legitimate economy.<sup>33</sup>

#### b) As a Condition of Mature Peacekeeping Operations

It cannot be assumed that a local and functioning government will exist in areas where peacekeeping forces are deployed. Although an administrative structure may exist, it may lack the personnel and resource support required to keep it functioning and fulfilling its mandate. Peacekeeping missions will also tend to deploy into the poorer areas of the world, whose governments (at all levels) will be subject to continuous attempts of corruption and illegitimate collaboration, at times by organized criminals and their representatives.

Although there has been a recent emphasis on nation building in areas of peacekeeping missions, internationally imposed political or government advisors have been included with peacekeeping efforts for decades. This is in recognition of local institutional instability and the need for its long-term repair. The arrival of these internationals can create disorganization in the system, however. Internationals can often deploy with naivety of the local area and further open the door to external manipulation.

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<sup>31</sup> Alfried Schulte-Bockholt. A Neo-Marxist Explanation of Organized Crime. *Critical Criminology*, Vol 10. (2002)

<sup>32</sup> Jurg Gerber. On the Relationship between Organized and White-Collar Crime: Government, Business, and Criminal Enterprise in Post-Communist Russia. *European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice*, Vol 4. (2000)

<sup>33</sup> Peter C. Van Duyne. Organized Crime, Corruption and Power. *Crime, Law & Social Change*, Vol 26 (1997).

In today's global climate of general acceptance for national self-determination, it is also possible that new political units are established and internationally recognized while the peace operation is underway. In these cases, there may be a significant and sudden demand for political and governmental expertise. The international community will no doubt aspire to eventually offer some guidance, but other enterprising organizations (some, criminal in nature) will do the same. This behavior is no different from legitimate businesses, which will also be attempting to exert influence (albeit with greater restraint) on a politically-immature region. This local political inexperience can make the ruling government's administrators more susceptible to external pressures of all types.

## 5. Local Concentration of Disposable Wealth

### a) As a Facilitator of Organized Crime

Organized crime, like any other business, is drawn to its markets. Taking the opportunistic character of criminal organizations into consideration, it is logical that they will be established within reach of that loose and accessible wealth which helps guarantee a positive return on investment. If wealth and disposable income already exists, then a market for certain luxury (but illegal) goods can be created. If this wealthy environment is coupled with a lax police and justice system (and little threat of, or repercussion from, being caught), then a greater number of people will be enticed to indulge in their vices.

This ruthlessness and opportunistic nature of organized crime leads it towards monopolistic enterprises. The ability of crime syndicates to operate outside legal constraints opens doors that would otherwise be closed due to fair competition. A popular view on organized crime<sup>34</sup> holds that the organization's behavior can be modeled solely as a monopolistic enterprise willing to operate outside established legal parameters. If one were to put a wall around the crime syndicate and study it in isolation, then the monopoly model does serve as a starting point for analyzing its operating methods and drives. Although it can be argued that criminal syndicates exert political influence through their methods and contacts, the same can be said (albeit through different methods) of the larger legitimate businesses operating in the world today. Taken from a business viewpoint, the issue is that there is, at times, little distinguishing a legitimate business from an organized criminal syndicate. With modern permissive business practices, it is not difficult for a legitimate company to approximate those techniques (minus the threat or use of violence) used by criminal syndicates to achieve their business goals. Exorbitant interest rates and protectionist measures all serve to give potentially unfair advantage to the business at the detriment of either other businesses or the customer.

The monopolistic nature of organized criminal enterprise then leads to expansionist and opportunist policies. This expansion is also facilitated by a ready abundance of wealth in their area of operations, which may translate into an increased demand for vice goods and source of needed revenue to fund the continual expansion.

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<sup>34</sup> Felia Allumand Jennifer Sands. Explaining organized crime in Europe: Are economists always right? *Crime, Law & Social Change*, Vol 41. (2004). The view referred to is Thomas Schelling's.

#### b) As a Condition of Mature Peacekeeping Operations

An important component of peacekeeping missions, once open conflict has subsided, is the promotion of economic recovery. Under a conflict or war scenario, the local economy is likely to have suffered significantly. The priority for consumers under conflict is the purchasing of basic survival necessities, the prices of which are often inflated to ridiculous levels.<sup>35</sup> Low and mid-range luxury goods serve no purpose towards survival in that situation and their corresponding markets tend to collapse. High-end luxury items may still have a market in collateral or wealth protection (individuals may prefer the ownership of precious metals to a rapidly devaluing currency, for example).

The installment of an international peacekeeping force will, once a general security and stability has been established, promote the operations of NGOs and legitimate business. The majority of NGOs are established either as charities or within the foreign aid budgets of their home countries. They also operate under varying degrees of self-sufficiency: some will deploy completely self-sufficient, with only the necessity to procure daily supplies from the region in which they operate. Others will deploy with little more than a skeletal administrative structure and sub-contract out all their projects to local personnel. Most NGOs will inject sizable amounts of money (often cash) into a local economy. Even token amounts of foreign aid into an area will significantly increase the amount of floating, uncommitted project capital in that region. There will be an understandable (given the likely extent of poverty in the mission area) race to secure some of these international projects and contracts. When a crime syndicate can use its influence to literally force out the competition (often behind closed doors), there is no reason for it to ignore the potential wealth that these international contracts can provide.

Although NGOs are a source of new income for the local economy, the international peacekeeping effort will itself be introducing money into local society from the day of its initial deployment until its final departure. The local staff the peace contingent hires infuse the local economy with often-inflated pay, which can translate into a large amount of disposable income and another opportunity for organized criminal operations to exploit.

### 6. Conscious Class Differences

#### a) As a Facilitator of Organized Crime

One of the sociological perspectives of criminal activity relies on the concept of “anomie”, or strain.<sup>36</sup> This idea, which gained popularity and underwent development during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, argues that crime is especially prevalent in those societies that place a great importance on material wealth and then deny the attainment of this wealth to a class of people. A certain percentage of this class then feels that this uncontrollable denial is a justification to ‘strain’ the limits of acceptable societal

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<sup>35</sup> Bonger, Willem. *Criminality and Economic Conditions*. (London: Indiana University Press, 1969). pp. 103-106.

<sup>36</sup> Donald R. Liddick. *An Empirical, Theoretical, and Historical Overview of Organized Crime*. (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 1999). p. 192.

behavior. They resort to various crimes in order to achieve that wealth that the society so eagerly pushes as a symbol of success.

This strain can occur at any level of the society, but will be more prominent in the lower economic classes. The local, and therefore constant, presence of a richer class will invite those regular comparisons that bring about this strain. Key to this idea of strain is the continuous reaffirmation of the class difference and the perceived importance of that material wealth, regardless of the local standard of living. The direction of the class' efforts in remedying the strain will be dependent on the local opportunities presented, and if local opportunities for socially acceptable or legal actions are not open, then there is an increased probability of illegal or criminal solutions being pursued.

#### b) As a Condition of Mature Peacekeeping Operations

In many cases, the introduction of a Western-led peacekeeping partnership will introduce the prominent Western emphasis on material goods. Because local employees with international organizations tend to earn a wage out of sync with the societal standards,<sup>37</sup> a new economic class is formed. The imposition of this new class, which has no historical precedent, further creates strain (through other classes' consciousness) in the society. A society where economic class is now largely based upon the ability to speak English (which will usually grant that individual a substantial advantage over others in being hired by international organizations) does not establish relations that are, over the long term, self-sustainable. Previously established class relationships may hold less weight as this new economic class gathers power through its wages. Professionals will be lured away from the local sector in which they play an important part in order to be employed as translators or in other international organization roles.

Likewise, the arrival of international professionals creates a new locally-based, economic class that is neither permanent nor a contributor (except through the expenditure of disposable wealth) to the local society. As that international class is able to pay top dollar for its necessities, it will inadvertently consume the best of the goods (such as accommodations and rations) that were previously generated for the society's own population.

The constant pressures that the new local and international economic classes put on the established society will raise the consciousness of those who are denied entry into either, especially those who previously held positions of economic power that have been lost to them in the course of the conflict.

## PART II: The Bosnia Example

Having provided evidence on the link between Mature Peacekeeping Operations and organized crime facilitators, the international peace effort in Bosnia will be used as a modern example to further illustrate this relationship.

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<sup>37</sup> This is because local employees are usually paid according to international rather than local rates. One of the arguments for the international wage is equity with the remainder of the international organization's employees, while one of the arguments for standardizing with local pay is stability in the society. In areas where high levels of unemployment prevail and one salary often supports an extended family, the argument for standardization with local pay is difficult to emotionally implement.

## Bosnia as a Mature Peacekeeping Operation

Bosnia accurately fits into the definition of a Mature Peacekeeping Operation as discussed in this paper. In fact, it is arguably the current stereotype of such a mission. Cyprus could be another example, but it tends to characterize inter-positional peacekeeping and stagnation rather than the complex second-generational peacekeeping of today. Bosnia has, by any peacekeeping standard, a secure and stable environment, working governmental and ruling institutions, and an international aid presence (along with the contractors and companies which that brings). The path to recovery and self-sufficiency has been well-defined but not nearly completed.

## Extent of Organized Crime in Bosnia

Organized Crime is a problem in Bosnia today. One need only consult daily newspapers over the last few months to find references on Bosnia's problem with organized crime and its constant interference with progress.<sup>38</sup>

The most recent briefing of the High Representative to the Security Council highlights the problem of organized crime in Bosnia and current efforts to deal with it.<sup>39</sup> Established networks of organized crime are deeply embedded within the local administration and political system. Some of these criminals are indicted war criminals, including the current Vice-President of Republika Srpska, who can serve as a concrete and sinister example of the extent of corruption in public office.

Corruption has been significant within the police system, and the international community is attempting to cleanse this problem. The International Police Task Force (IPTF) has been certifying serving police officers after they have passed checks for security and competency. A number of conflict-era police officers have been found unfit for duty because of corruption charges and ordered to step down.

This could have been a success story; however, a local court has since decided it had the legitimate right to re-instate dismissed officers. It has now begun exercising that perceived right. A separate organization, the Bosnia and Hercegovina Human Rights Chamber, has also unilaterally ruled that it possesses the legal capability to decide whether these police officers were rightfully dismissed. This undermining of UN authority has the potential to negate the hard work done thus far and reduces optimism for progress in the future. A legal dispute can be as inviting as a legal vacuum to manipulation; both are sources of uncertainty.

Politically, this will be a critical year for the future of Bosnia. The High Representative has stated his aim of turning over certain governing institutions to local decision-makers and administration.<sup>40</sup> Regardless whether or not these institutions are capable of sustaining themselves and competently fulfilling their roles, an increased

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<sup>38</sup> For example, an internet search of major news sources conducted 1 April 04 found 9 separate news articles on organized crime in Bosnia less than a week old. This pairing seems to be so prominent that the continued linkage in popular news sources may eventually make organized crime a scapegoat excuse for any problem that surfaces in Bosnia.

<sup>39</sup> SC/8019 dated 3 Mar 2004.

<sup>40</sup> SC/8019, dated 3 Mar 04

opportunity for subversion and corruption lie in the transition period. With the loss of UN responsibility and widespread oversight into the region's governance, the local administrators will have more freedom and therefore be at more risk from manipulative, criminal organizations. That lack of political stability, which is discussed above as a facilitator of organized criminal activity, will become manifest during the transitory period and shortly thereafter, as the new administrators become accustomed to their roles.

### Fighting Organized Crime

Organized Crime is traditionally viewed as being the responsibility of the police and justice systems. In Bosnia, it is the pillar of police and judicial reconstruction that attempts to actively deal with the problem through investigation of the other pillars of Bosnian administration. Although organized crime can be characterized as a simple issue of legality in operating procedures or trafficked goods, dealing with the problem from a one-dimensional point of view will not nearly be as effective as attacking it from multiple angles. Consequently, all sectors of the burgeoning society or international operation must make an active effort to stem the tide of the creeping, organized corruption and illegal behavior that will be sponsored by criminal syndicates.

The weight of organized crime and corruption severely hinders a nation building effort. Developing nations spend a greater percentage of their annual budget than industrialized nations combating crime, which then forces them to spend less on state development.<sup>41</sup> The climb from developing to developed state is thus made more tedious and difficult.

Organized criminal activity, through corruption of public officials, siphons incredible amounts of money from state budgets and contracts at all levels. In many ways, this corruption has become so widespread that it is simply acknowledged as a way of doing business, a 'tax' or 'tribute' that must be paid in the course of normal transactions. This has become a learned behavior through decades of poverty and state inability to meet basic human needs, which are then met through this type of illegitimate business activity. In Bosnia, the siphoning of funds does not have such a historical perspective but has been introduced with the political instability and the relative easy access to wealth brought in by the international community.

### Part III: Recommendations:

Is it inevitable that Mature Peacekeeping Operations operate in conditions that promote the growth of organized crime? Although crime itself is a part of any society, measures can be taken, within the current scheme of peacekeeping operations, to reduce its effects. It will never be possible to eradicate organized crime entirely, but the ease with which it operates today under current peacekeeping missions must be met with greater challenge.

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<sup>41</sup> McDonald, William F. (Ed.) *Crime and Law Enforcement in the Global Village*. (Cincinnati: Anderson Publishing Co., 1997) pp. 44-48.

## 1. Increased Visibility on the Awarding of Money and Flow of International Aid

In the early days of post-conflict rebuilding, it is difficult to establish the legitimacy of local businessmen and entrepreneurs who are only too eager to sign contracts. It is relatively easy, in an economic and legal vacuum, for organized criminals to take the initiative and win or influence the awarding of contracts. It is also easy, in a security vacuum, for the same criminals to seize duties or contracts from legitimate local businessmen.

The flow of money must be better scrutinized to ensure that it does not move into the hands of organized criminals. It is not acceptable to accept uncertainty in business transactions, even in a scenario of societal disorganization. It is not always possible to have visibility on the local flow of monies or secure the legitimacy of every businessman. However, regular and intensive investigations conducted by a third party into the suitability of existing contractors can help to identify possible leaches. Although this in itself can be costly, the expenditures would not compare with the amount being illegitimately taken from the rebuilding effort.

## 2. Reduced Interference of the Local Society

Social groups can be a fragile construction, though their importance to maintaining stability in a society must be emphasized. Although there may be a requirement for the intervention to restructure local social groups (because of harmful inter-ethnic relations, for example), care should be taken to reduce the unnecessary manipulation of local social ties or standards. There must also be a proactive effort on the part of the international peace effort to ensure that the local population does not unintentionally aid its own social degradation by over-extensively catering to the international community to the neglect of its own social groups. Western influence may be seen as positive to many people, but too much change over too short a time period will have a destabilizing effect that can only open the door to the formulation of new, or manipulation of old, social standards from criminal sources. It is understood that not all societies will have a strong social fabric to begin with; however the usefulness of this social fabric must be respected and capitalized upon in all peace building operations.

## 3. Definition of an End State for the International Peacekeeping Mission

The modern international emphasis on nation building initiatives within peacekeeping missions leads to problems with mission timelines. In the realm of peace operations, few goals seem to have as open-ended schedules as those incorporating the building or reconstruction of nations. Bosnia originated as a peacekeeping operation (largely with the purpose of human security) and has since experienced a mission creep that today involves the contributing nations in the reconstruction and monitoring of national institutions. Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq are further examples where either the

end state of the mission is ill-defined (as in Afghanistan and Iraq) or its path is characterized by a lack of clarity (as in Kosovo).

Although it is recognizably difficult to achieve consensus in an international political climate, the lack of an exit strategy only encourages stagnation in the peace building effort. Acceptance of stagnation translates into an acceptance of that political instability and incoming wealth that promote the continued existence of organized crime. Establishing a well-defined end state with strict intermediate goalposts would help to better and more quantitatively measure progress of the mission, increasing visibility of elements (such as organized crime) that may be tampering with that progress. Organized crime promotes stagnation in development and the strict establishment of goalposts may induce that local goal-orientation that would discourage criminal-governmental partnerships for fear of losing all international aid.

## Conclusion

Mature Peacekeeping Operations unintentionally support the growth of transnational and organized crime. In large part this is due to the background societal conditions of those areas to which peacekeeping operations are traditionally deployed. In some part this is due to the way in which these operations are conducted. The social and class strain, the political instability, and the sudden availability of wealth that characterizes the incorporation of an international intervention all tend to promote organized criminal activity.

There has been a historical acceptance that, in the absence of an established ruling organization and administrative system, compromises will be made and leniencies accepted in operational procedures for those peace builders, civilian and military, on the ground. Corruption that becomes imbedded into the system during its formative period becomes impossible to destroy. Since the ultimate goal of any peace building effort is the self-sufficiency of a stable, local administration, this must be addressed from the beginning and not allowed to fully develop in the first place.

This corruption, most of which has been historically (and in the Bosnia case is) linked to organized crime, significantly stunts the financial power of the fledging economy and legitimate state leadership. Progress in the nation building effort must be made, if self-sufficiency is ever to be achieved. Lack of progress will only lead to stagnation. An international effort that shows no results will not be able to garner international support forever; international money demands results or it becomes re-directed.

In this era of peacekeeping operations, we have yet to see an internationally-sponsored peace building effort abandoned because of the effects of organized crime. However, we have, in many cases, yet to see a peace building effort completely successful. Many are on the road now, but that road is long, and longer still against the wave of organized crime that is even now overtaking weak global states. Time will tell whether our peace building efforts are strong enough to resist it.

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