

CHANTILLY MODEL UNITED
NATIONS PRESENTS

Godfather II

CHMUN XXI

Crisis Simulation

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Committee Background:

Founded by Vito Corleone in the early 1940s, the Corleone Family was one of five families that formed an unofficial governing body for organized crime in New York City. Under Vito's reign, the family earned respect through diplomacy, coercion, and favors. The family had a formal monopoly on the businesses of gambling, unions, alcohol, and political power, making the Corleone family one of the most powerful criminal syndicates in the American underworld. After Vito's retirement and death, the leadership of the family was passed onto his youngest son, Michael Corleone. Michael took the reins with an enthusiastic intent to legitimize the family's dealings, pivoting away from traditional mafia business and into legitimate business dealings and politics. Part of the pivot included the consolidation of family operations from New York City to Lake Tahoe, Nevada, with significant investments in casinos and real estate. While it is trying to legitimize, the Corleone Family is still dealing in a wide variety of underworld, political, and international dealings. The family has connections in Havana, Las Vegas, Miami, and New York. The family has relationships with many organized crime figures, including Hyman Roth, the Rosoto Brothers, and politically corrupt officials. The Corleones had significant interests in Havana, Cuba, until the revolution led by Fidel Castro and the Cubans to eliminate all U.S. business interests, including the Corleones. The Corleone Family is organized hierarchically, with the Don (Michael) being on the top, followed by an advisor (consigliere), followed by underbosses, and finally caporegimes, all of whom have crews. However, a recent assassination attempt on Michael (and some other criminal activities) has caused Michael to call a full council meeting to discuss how to proceed regarding potential security leaks, what to do in Havana, and how to handle increasing governmental legal pressure.



Topic 1: Battling the Senate Investigation

The Corleone Family is now under threat more than ever before—not from other families or shifting markets, but from the United States federal government. Having quietly built up a nationwide portfolio of largely illegitimate business interests over time, the family has drawn the entire interest of the U.S. Senate. A far-reaching investigation of organized crime in progress is being guided by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. These hearings are high-profile, supported by blanket FBI surveillance, IRS probes, and direct advice from the Department of Justice. Charges can be as serious as racketeering, tax evasion, obstruction of justice, and murder. Organized crime is no longer confined to the urban jungle but is a national problem, and so is the response—and it's also televised. To the committee, the Corleone Family is the new crime syndicate: disciplined, organized, and well-established in criminal and legal enterprises. The family has been linked by federal officials with corruption in labor unions, casino skimming, international money laundering, and assassination for hire. The family's move into Nevada and its suspected business dealings in pre-revolutionary Cuba



only add fuel to suspicions. Since Vito Corleone is now dead, officials believe his son Michael to be the legitimization of the family's legal empire and its criminal machinery. Of particular interest is the Corleones' dominance over labor unions

and Nevada and East Coast gaming interests. The family-connected intermediaries are accused by federal authorities of shaking down companies, looting union pension funds, and money laundering through casinos and front companies. These charges are partially corroborated by wiretapped communications, financial data, and witness depositions obtained through federal plea bargains. The

greatest threat to the Corleones is the Senate tactic of targeting internal witnesses. The investigators are picking up the mid-level and top-level associates in separate groups, offering immunity for their cooperation. One of the elderly capos is already in federal hands and under tremendous coercion to give public testimony—naming top players, discussing older and newer crimes, and outlining the family's internal structure. Although such testimony would not be legally valid, it would be disastrous in the public eye, making headlines, provoking indictments, and destroying the family's public reputation. This is more politics than it is a legal hearing. Senators with blemishes on their reputations are using the hearings to show how tough on crime they are. The committee doesn't require guarantors of proof; the purpose is to indict or embarrass large operators—or at least to destroy their reputations irretrievably. For all the family's history of operating on a need-to-know basis and plausible deniability, one cannot guess how much the federal government has learned—or what additional evidence might still turn up. Leaked reports indicate that the FBI has been engaging in long-term surveillance: phone wiretaps, bankwatch, and physical following of people at the heart of the action. They have interviewed remote business associates, employees in front companies, and even remote family members. If this investigation pays off, the legal ramifications would be monumental. The Senate is powerless to indict, but it can refer cases for prosecution by the Department of Justice. Perjury, tax evasion, conspiracy, and charges of illegal gambling are all possibilities. Michael Corleone himself would be included, along with other key players like Tom Hagen and Fredo Corleone. Assets belonging to the family, real estate, casino licenses, and bank accounts could be seized or frozen. In addition to the risk of prosecution, reputational damage is equally catastrophic. The long-term strategic objective of legitimization of the wealth of the Corleone Family, specifically the casinos and real estate, rests on its image of respectability. As the Senate inquiry gets under way, the Corleones' future is uncertain and dangerous. Their fate depends not just on what they have done but on what the government can establish and how well they can control the book that is being written in the eyes of the public.



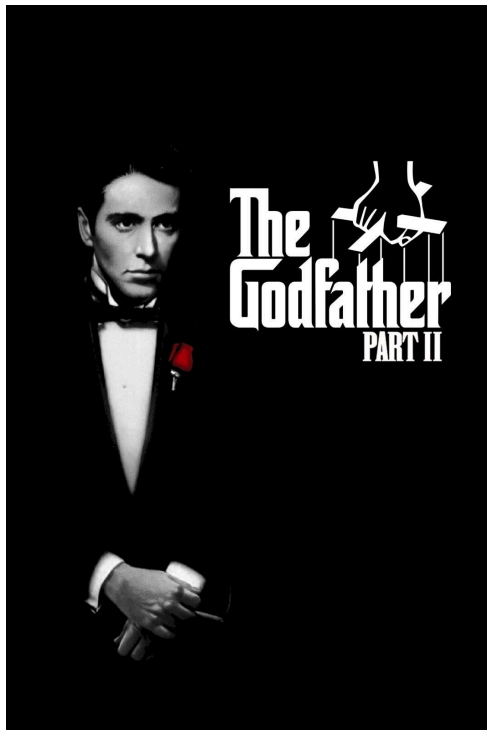
Questions to Consider:

1. To what extent should the Corleone Family prioritize protecting its public image over silencing legal threats, and is it still possible to preserve both?
2. Can internal loyalty within the family structure survive the pressure of federal immunity deals, or must disloyal elements be removed to contain the threat?
3. How far is the family willing to go to obstruct the Senate investigation, whether it be through legal, political, or other means, and will the costs outweigh any potential benefits?



Topic B: Rebuilding Sicilian Ties and Power Bases Abroad

The Corleone Family now has a delicate but considerable challenge: trying to fortify its ties with Sicily while consolidating power over its foreign interests. Having secured influence in New York and Nevada, Michael Corleone has shifted his intentions towards Sicily in order to stabilize the family's historical connections—not only as a gesture of identity, but also as a banking facility for the global family activities. Traditional alliances are in disarray after decades of emigration, locally generated rivalry, and local distribution of power, resulting in opportunities for others to claim territories and interrupt the opportunity of re-establishing or reconciliation. The project of influence reconstruction



is in progress in a multi-form, dynamic way. Seasoned collaborators are flying between Sicily and the United States, making overtures with local families, making arrangements for alliances, and opening communication again with dormant organizations. The real estate purchases, real estate investment strategies, control of shipping routes, and discreet scheduling of payments can act as significant leverage and a signal of presence. Sicilian officials and local power brokers are identified both as potential partners and potential obstacles; building trust will take time, negotiations, and a touch of force now and then.

Internationally, the Corleones' approach replicates their American method: mix legitimate business with crime to create plausible deniability. Italian banks, import-export firms, and prominent cultural investments offered the family a complete camouflage to operate with their capital while establishing foreign influence. Michael had work done by groups of trusted lieutenants who were given the tools to negotiate, intimidate, and finesse the financial transactions while maintaining the personal distance



from public exposure. The family was not just trying to create a network of overtly legal businesses with cover for investing in illegal businesses but was also trying to create a network that was transatlantic with the means to execute legal and illegal businesses to varying degrees, ranging from international trade to gambling and labor. However, risks are severe. Rival families, whether in Sicily or the United States, will be anxious to thwart the Corleones. Deals could be destroyed by informants and rival agents, or the political geographic shift of the locale could disrupt carefully cultivated alliances. In addition, federal investigations in the United States involving foreign investments, money laundering, and transnational crime in general also increase the potential risk of exposure. All of the shipments, transfers of funds, and private trips taken to a foreign target may be intercepted, surveilled, or investigated. Leaving aside all of those dangers, the strategic bottom line is clear: If the Corleone Family does not connect back to Sicily, then they will not only lose cultural legitimacy but also operational flexibility. Sicily is not just about family and heritage; it is a way of life, and an important part of an overall international strategy allows the family to secure assets, give them more leverage, and have dominance over other greedy opponents. Whether Michael can thread old ties with new alignments will define not only the family's footprint in global proximity but also the familial perspective of their power, reputation, and invincibility. The act of reconnecting these relationships is further complicated by generational and ideological divides. While Michael might prefer discretion and deliberate negotiation, younger operatives may prefer bold, actionful displays of dominance involving greater risks. Keeping younger mobsters cohesive while navigating delicate diplomatic channels requires vigilance. A lack of vigilance can raise concerns, strain alliances, provoke rival families, and attract unwanted attention from foreign police forces. As the deliberations persist and testing loyalties unfold, the Committee must understand that the Corleones navigate across the world with a peculiar blend of patience, calculation, and ruthless efficiency that has characterized them for decades. Every success abroad cements the family's global legitimacy, while every blunder threatens to expose vulnerabilities to criminal rivals or to law enforcement and governmental authorities. The outcomes of these dealings will shape the family's global prestige for the foreseeable future, impacting its reach globally, potential criminal influence, and perception as an omnipotent family in Sicily and on the other side of the ocean.



Questions to Consider:

1. How can the Corleone Family, or any transnational organization, repair fractured alliances in Sicily while exercising power abroad, and what diplomatic, economic, or covert approaches would be effective in this process?
2. What risks are involved with expanding Sicilian connections internationally, including interference by rival families, foreign governments, or law enforcement agencies and how could these risks be mitigated?
3. How can the family balance the need for legitimacy in the public sphere with the continuation of covert activities, and how important are reputation, in both Sicily and abroad, for power to maintain its influence over the long term?

Helpful Links for Both Topics:

1. The Godfather Part II: https://godfather.fandom.com/wiki/The_Godfather_Part_II
2. Cosa Nostra: U.S. Diplomacy and the Italian Mafia, 1954-1992:
<https://adst.org/2015/02/the-mafia-from-goodfellas-to-godfathers/>



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