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## Briefer Contributions: Racketeering--A Contribution to a Bibliography

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by the Department to investigate prison conditions in different provinces. At the same time I took advantage of the opportunity to ask the prison authorities to organize a national prison association. This move was unfortunately arrested by political disturbances. But a prison association in Hopei province was organized, and the Department of Sociology of Yen-ching University was asked to help do research work and to edit a prison journal. In November of 1929 *The Prison Journal*, a quarterly magazine, was published by the Hopei Prison Society. All the articles and translations were contributed by faculty members and students of the Department of Yen-ching University. This magazine was warmly received by the prison authorities, and the Ministry of Justice sent a circular notice to all courts and prisons and detention houses to subscribe to it as a help in an understanding of the problem of crime.

In 1928 an article on "Within the Prison Wall of Peking" appeared in *China Outlook*, an English magazine of opinion in North China, and in 1929 an article on "The Chinese Prison Problems" appeared in the third volume of the *Sociological World*, edited by the Department of Sociology and published by the Commercial Press. These two articles exposed the barbarous conditions in the Chinese "new prisons," which, however, had been stamped as "satisfactory" by the Commission on Extraterritoriality. As a result the preceding penal reform was seriously questioned. Later The National Research Institute of Social Sciences, Academia Sinica, with the help of the Department of Sociology of Yen-ching University at the end of 1929, made a national survey of the crime situation in the

hope of helping the government to shape a new policy with regard to future penal reform.

The study of criminology in China has caused the penal reform movement to take a new direction. Instead of continuing to follow Western experiments step by step, it is beginning to beat its own path. It was previously regarded as a legal problem, emphasizing procedure and monopolized by the Government. Now it is becoming a social problem with popular interest. The earlier penal reforms which primarily aimed to hasten the abolition of extraterritoriality, are now regarded as a ridiculous joke. Now definite attempts are being made to understand the crime problem and to find ways for its fundamental solution.

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## RACKETEERING

### A CONTRIBUTION TO A BIBLIOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>

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KATHERINE O'SHEA MCCARTHY

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#### *Introduction*

"A racket may be defined as any scheme of exploitation by which criminal conspirators live upon the industry of others, maintaining their hold by intimidation, terrorism, or political favoritism. The word 'racket' has come to be loosely synonymous, on the one hand, with any scheme for making easy money, whether illegal or not; on the other as a blanket definition of organized crime." This is quoted from John Gunther's article "The High Cost of Hoodlums," because it is one of the best of the many definitions that have been given for racketeering.

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<sup>1</sup>From the Library School of the University of Wisconsin.

There have also been many guesses as to the origin of the word "racket." But whatever its true origin may have been, it has come to be a widely used word and has in the last four or five years crept into titles and has even reached the respectability of being a subject heading in several periodical indexes.

The word may be new but the practice is as old as civilization. Celeste Jedel, in her article in the *New York Times Magazine*, traces it back to ancient Greece; Raymond Moley tells of the caravans that paid tribute in Asia; Louis Adamic traces it to the landlord feuds in Ireland, and to the Molly Maguires in Pennsylvania. Some of our great masterpieces of Literature have had accounts of early rackets; Gogol's "Dead Souls" and Balzac's "Les splendeurs et misères des courtisanes" are outstanding examples. But it was not until we enterprising moderns invented the word that it was applied to the earlier rackets.

To make a complete bibliography of racketeering would be impossible because the practice is not clearly defined. For generations, there have been books and articles written about various phases of crime to which the name could be applied. To decide which to include and which not to include, would be a matter of interpretation rather than bibliographic work.

Therefore, in the present instance, this bibliography includes only articles in periodicals and material in books which actually use the word "racketeering." Some of the material was listed in periodical indexes, other material was selected out of the mass of crime material that is being written today, and some of it was found just in the course of the day's reading to keep

up on current affairs. The scope of the bibliography is necessarily limited because of the difficulty in finding the material.

### *Books*

Adamic, Louis. *Dynamite: the story of class violence in America*. 1931. N. Y. Viking Press.

"This book is an effort to trace the evolution of violence in the class struggle in the United States from the unorganized, spasmodic riots in the eighteen-thirties on the part of the ill-treated laborers to the highly organized criminal terrorism, or 'racketeering' of today." *Author's note*.

The field of labor racketeering is covered in this book by a man who has made a long study of the subject.

Ahearn, Danny. *Confessions of a gunman*. 1930. London. Routledge.

First hand information from a gangster on how various rackets are run and on other phases of life in the underworld. The American edition of this book is entitled, "How to commit a murder," and is published by Washburn. It is presumably the same but was not available for consultation.

Gowen, Emmett. *A true exposé of racketeers and their methods*. 1930. N. Y. Popular Bk. Corp.

This is a collection of articles about many of the most notorious rackets, edited by a former investigator for the Better Business Bureau of New York City.

Hostetter, C. L., and Beesley, T. Q. "It's a racket." 1929. Chicago, Les Quin.

This is a very good survey of racketeering, written by authors who know the racketeering game. There is a glossary of hoodlum

language, and a chapter by Dudley Taylor, an authority on the legal aspects of injunctions, entitled, "The injunction as a defense against rackets."

Landesco, John. Racketeering (in Illinois association for criminal justice. Illinois Crime Survey, p. 979-997. 1929).

This chapter takes up the question of what racketeering is and its extent in Chicago.

O'Connor, J. J. Broadway racketeers. 1928. Liveright.

This is another exposé of the methods of the racketeers, perhaps somewhat sensational. Describes many of the different rackets in New York City, and has a glossary for interpretation of gangster words used.

Pasley, F. D. Al Capone: the biography of a self-made man. 1930. N. Y. Washburn.

This is the story of Al Capone's achievements, mostly since 1920. It stresses the story of Capone as a leader of gangsters rather than as a racketeer; but inasmuch as he is the best known and most loudly heralded of racketeers, the book seems to rightfully belong in this bibliography.

Sullivan, E. D. Chicago surrenders. 1930. N. Y. Vanguard Press.

Continues the story of crime in Chicago begun in "Rattling the cup on Chicago crime." Sullivan maintains that Chicago has surrendered to the criminals but that Chicago is only an incident in the spread of crime throughout the country. Chapter 9, p. 149-164, is especially about the racketeers.

Sullivan, E. D. Rattling the cup on Chicago crime. 1929. N. Y. Vanguard Press.

This book is written to explain the why of Chicago's gangland and

the laissez faire attitude of the public toward the criminals. Chapter 10, p. 115-126, is especially about the rackets.

Territt, Courtenay. Only saps work: a ballyhoo for racketeering. 1930. N. Y. Vanguard Press.

This is a very good book on the subject of racketeering, especially stressing the labor and business rackets.

[Who's who in racketeering] (in Illinois Association for Criminal Justice. Illinois Crime Survey, p. 1084-1085. 1929).

Gives information about the type of people who are in the racketeering game, their nationality, work, prison terms, etc.

Willemse, C. W., Lemmer, C. J., and Kofold, J. C. Behind the green lights. 1931. Knopf.

Captain Willemse's autobiography, in which he tells the story of his life on the New York police and detective force during the first quarter of the century. It is practically a history of crime in New York for that period. One chapter, p. 271-289, is on racketeering.

#### *Articles in Periodicals*

Adamic, Louis. Racketeers. New Republic, Jan. 7, 1931, v. 65 p. 210-212.

This article brings out the fact that racketeering is really on the upgrade in this country in spite of the work of the crime commissions. A number of protection rackets are described.

Adamic, Louis. Racketeers and Organized labor in Chicago. Harper's, Sept., 1930, v. 161, p. 404-416.

Very good brief history of labor racketeering in which the author traces it back to the Molly Maguires, in Pennsylvania just after

the Civil War, and from them back to the 19th century landlord feuds in Ireland.

Bent, Silas. Newspapermen—partners in crime? Scribner's, Nov., 1930, v. 88, p. 520-526.

Brings up the question of whether reporters have to be racketeers themselves to get the crime news that the public expects, and whether the newspaper circulation wars are the forerunners of crime conditions.

Burke, J. P. Argot of the racketeers. American Mercury, Dec., 1930, v. 21, p. 454-458.

This is supposed to be a list of words used by the racketeers as distinguished from those used by other underworld groups. Probably not all exclusively racketeer words.

Business and the racketeer. Review of Reviews, May, 1931, v. 83, p. 72-73.

Digest of Bruce Smith's article in Nation's Business.

Butler, S. D. Making war on the gangs: a plan to take the police out of politics. Forum, Mar., 1931, v. 85, p. 134-141.

Major General Smedley D. Butler, of Philadelphia fame, offers a permanent cure for crime and racketeering. He outlines a system of state police which politicians will not be able to control, to do away with the inefficiency and corruption in the present police systems.

Chicago's new use for gunmen. Literary Digest, June 16, 1928, v. 97, p. 9.

Discussion of the relationship between legitimate business and thuggery in Chicago.

Collins, J. H. Referred to the committee on Racketeers: the Los Angeles method of forestalling donations and importunities for

advertising that has no merit. The Burroughs, July, 1929.

Banks in Los Angeles form an organization to consider all requests for donations and advertising schemes, except for certain organizations on an official list. Paging not available.

Crime in Chicago. New Republic, Aug. 29, 1928, v. 56, p. 36-38.

Brings out the idea that crime has become a part of business life. Gives some of the reasons for this relationship between crime and business that is called racketeering.

Crowther, Samuel. Invisible government: it can exist only so long as citizens go to the polls and approve its methods. Ladies' Home Journal, May, 1931, v. 48, p. 21+.

This article tells how racketeering might be ended. The author says that organized crime cannot exist without the aid of government, and if the public winks at the violation of some laws they can not hold the politicians and the police to the enforcement of others.

———. Invisible government: organized crime under the cloak of bootlegging. Ladies' Home Journal, Apr., 1931, v. 48, p. 20+.

The author says that the 18th amendment is only one cause of crime, that the Sherman act, the Clayton act, and many other acts seem also to promote crime, that crime today is organized as a business and is an outgrowth of political and business conditions. Some of the chief beneficiaries of the racket are not gangsters but people who hold respected positions.

Crowther, Samuel. Invisible government: what racketeering costs the home. Ladies' Home Journal, Feb., 1931, v. 48, p. 3+.

- The author maintains that the ordinary householder of a large city pays from 5 to 25 cents on every dollar to some racket and that the working man pays more. Tells something about how the racket affects everyday life and has even made inroads into the professions.
- Duffus, R. L. Function of the racketeer. *New Republic*, Mar. 27, 1929, v. 58, p. 166-168.
- The racketeer performs a specialized function, that of eliminating cutthroat competition by organizing businesses by intimidation. He is a very special sort of gangster because he has something to sell.
- Epstein, Abraham. The insurance racket. *American Mercury*, Sept., 1930, v. 31, p. 1-10.
- Tells of the very large salaries of the officers, the underpaid help, the high insurance rates and the opposition of private insurance companies to state insurance because it exposes their exorbitant rates. Gives arguments for state insurance and tells about the 1905 investigation.
- Gang rule in America. *New Statesman*, Sept. 13, 1930, v. 35, p. 698-700.
- A clear and unbiased statement of conditions in the United States, telling about the grip of gangsters and racketeers on the country. The article centers around the Lingle and Zuta murders.
- Gangland's challenge to our civilization. *Literary Digest*, Oct. 25, 1930, v. 107, p. 7-8.
- Shooting of Jack Diamond, gangster and beer racketeer, leads to discussion of racketeers and bringing them to justice. Criticizes the American public's lack of interest in law enforcement.
- Gangsters and prohibition. *Literary Digest*, May 30, 1931, v. 109, p. 10.
- Attorney-general Mitchell's assertion that bootlegging only brings in about 20 per cent of the revenue that goes to the gangsters, brings a storm of comment from the wet and dry press. Are rackets dependent on bootlegging or not?
- Gunther, John, and Mulroy, J. W. The high cost of hoodlums. *Harper's*, Oct., 1929, v. 159, p. 529-540.
- Tells about the origin and scope and method of operation of rackets. Very fine article.
- This is also printed in the *Police Journal*, Apr., 1930, v. 17, p. 9-13.
- Hunt, L. W. The rise of a racketeer: a portrait of Alphonse Capone. *Outlook*, Dec. 10, 1930, v. 156, p. 574-576+.
- A survey of the life and activities of Al Capone from his entry into gang warfare to date. An estimate of his character and goal.
- High Cost of rackets ruining business. *Literary Digest*, Apr. 18, 1931, v. 109, p. 9.
- Discussion of the tremendous cost of rackets.
- Holitscher, Arthur. *Wiedersehen mit Amerika*. *Neue Rundsch*, Mar., 1930, v. 41, pt. 1, p. 350-370.
- Of special interest because it is in a German periodical.
- The inside of the testimonial racket. *Advertising and selling*, Jan. 7, 1931, v. 16, p. 20-21+.
- This is an interesting account of how testimonials for advertised products are secured, by a woman who is in the business and who signs herself "A Racketeer." It is not what one generally calls a racket but the article is included

- because the author seems to think that it is one.
- Jedel, Celeste. From Troy to Chicago the racket runs. *New York Times Magazine*, Mar., 1931, p. 6+.
- "Tricks of an old trade have come down to our age without much change." *Sub-title*.
- Racketeering through the ages, from ancient Greece to the present, has been essentially the same thing.
- Lady dictator for Brooklyn laundry owners. *Outlook*, May 21, 1930, v. 155, p. 98.
- Woman lawyer is selected by the laundry owners of the city of Brooklyn to aid them in freeing themselves from the racketeers.
- Landlady racket. *Literary Digest*, Mar. 7, 1931, v. 108, p. 11.
- Discussion of the operation of a racket scheme in New York City by which innocent landladies and nurses are framed on moral charges.
- Lewis, Lloyd. On the Chicago front. *Outlook*, Feb. 19, 1930, v. 154, p. 288-290.
- Effect of the advent of a new state's attorney and the stock market crash on racketeering looks hopeful.
- Lippmann, Walter. The underworld: a stultified conscience. *Forum*, Feb., 1931, v. 85, p. 65-69.
- Something about the reason for the existence of the rackets. Industry called gunmen in as strike breakers, making the first opening. This is an article on gangs in general but has some worthwhile material on racketeering.
- . The underworld: our secret servant. *Forum*, Jan., 1931, v. 85, p. 1-4.
- The author says that racketeering tends to develop where an industry is subject to excessively competitive conditions, and that the underworld exists because there is a demand for the things that it only can produce.
- Lloyd's offers insurance against racketeering to American prospects. *East Underwriter*; Dec. 5, 1930, v. 31, p. 1.
- Same article in *Weekly Underwriter*, Dec. 20, 1930, v. 123, p. 1404.
- This article was listed in the *Industrial Arts index*, but the magazines were not available for consultation.
- Loesch, F. J. Crime and your balance sheet. *Magazine of Business*, Apr. 1929, v. 55, p. 405-406+.
- Tells the effect of crime on business profits. The business man loses money when he gets mixed up with a racket, and the city of Chicago as a whole loses business because people are afraid to go there.
- Lynd, Robert. Business man a hero. *New Statesman*, Aug. 23, 1930, v. 35, p. 616-617.
- A very sarcastic article by Y. Y. upon the subject of our American tradesmen who have become "heroes" in the racket in spite of the tradition of peace loving tradesmen. Concludes that the customer is helpless in face of the rackets; and he always pays and always will until he revolts.
- M., C. F. Criminal law bombing. *St. Louis Law Review*, Dec., 1930, v. 16, p. 72-73.
- The extensive use of bombs by extortionists and other gangsters has called forth a new statute in Missouri defining the crime of bombing and imposing a penalty for commission of the crime. Tells of laws in other states. This article is included because it tells about laws that are a direct re-

- sult of the spread of racketeering and points a road for other states to follow.
- McLellan, Howard. Gangs, bosses and judges. *Review of Reviews*, Oct., 1930, v. 82, p. 50-55.
- Crime, rackets, etc., due to corrupt judges; it is not altogether the police's fault.
- Marshall, Constance. Racketeering in vice. *The Woman's Journal*, May, 1931, v. 16, p. 18-19+.
- Tells how innocent women have been framed on charges of prostitution, from which they can escape only by employing the "right" bondsman, who is in on the deal, to "fix" the case.
- Michigan. Governor. [Governor Brucker urges passage of a law defining racketeering] (in Messages of the governors to the legislatures of forty-three states. *United States Daily*, Feb. 16, 1931, v. 5, p. 18).
- Mok, Michel. Secrets of the fortune-telling racket. *Popular Science Monthly*, Jan., 1931, v. 118, p. 17-19+.
- Tells how people of the United States are paying \$125,000,000 a year to fortune-telling fakers of all kinds. Gives information about the kinds of people, and the reason for the flourishing of this business at the present time.
- Moley, Raymond. Behind the menacing racket. *New York Times Magazine*, Nov. 23, 1930, p. 1-2+.
- "The reasons why it flourishes are found in the social, political and business conditions of our great cities, in which after all, the fabric of civilization is thin stuff." *Sub-title*.
- This very fine article gives something about the history of the racket from the times when caravans paid tribute down to the present.
- Munro, W. B. Graft: a threat to democracy. *New York Times Magazine*, Apr. 12, 1931, p. 1-2.
- "The evolution of the methods in the larger American cities, where corruption joins hands with racketeering, is regarded as a sinister challenge to popular government." *Sub-title*.
- Nation aroused to smash the racketeer. *Literary Digest*, Dec. 6, 1930, v. 107, p. 7-9.
- Discussion of the anti-racketeer campaign which developed out of recent shootings. Digest of articles and opinions about new moves in New York, Chicago, and Washington.
- New traps for racketeers. *Literary Digest*, Oct. 18, 1930, v. 107, p. 13.
- Discussion of the vagrancy campaign in Chicago in which Judge Lyle issued orders to bring in all hoodlums under an old section of the state criminal code, defining vagrancy.
- Newspaper criminals in Chicago. *Nation*, July 23, 1930, v. 131, p. 88-89.
- Discussion of racketeering on the part of Chicago newspapermen, brought to light by the Lingle murder.
- Our racketeers' reign of terror. *Literary Digest*, Jan. 11, 1930, v. 104, p. 12.
- Account of the activities of racketeers in Chicago and suggests way in which they can be combatted. Tells of gangsters who were trying to get money out of the president of the Tire and Rubber Workers' Union.
- Parsons, F. W. Better people as well as better machines. *Gas Age-Record*, June 7, 1930, v. 65, p. 863-864.
- General information about the extent of racketeering (extortion) and the cost to the ordinary citi-

zen; makes a few suggestions of ways to reduce crime and claims that life and industry in this country have been very much harmed because of a display of maudlin sentiment respecting the rights of the criminal.

Philadelphia justice for Chicago's Al Capone. *Literary Digest*, June 15, 1929, v. 101, p. 33-42.

Interview with Capone on the subject of racketeering.

President Hoover declares untrue report that he will seek extension of federal laws to cover racketeering. *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, Nov. 29, 1931, v. 131, pt. 3, p. 3467-3468.

Contains text of President's statement about racketeering, in which he says that we need a new widespread public awakening to the failure of local governments to protect their citizens from rackets, etc. Article also contains a comment from the *New York Herald Tribune*, about the President's statement.

Racketeering drives. *Outlook*, Dec. 3, 1930, v. 156, p. 530.

Prohibition at bottom of liquor racket and all racketeering; cannot clean up crime situation because people will not allow the bootlegger to be interfered with. Racketeering as it is done in New York. *American Industries*, Dec., 1929, v. 30, p. 17-27.

Findings in investigations made by the *New York World* into racketeering in New York. Mostly about the racket in the building industry.

Racketeers. *Economist*, Oct. 25, 1930, v. 111, p. 753-755.

Brings out idea that racketeering depends on political corruption for its existence, and as long as there is prohibition, it will be impossible to wipe out political

corruption. Bootleg liquor is the chief racket.

Rackets of Chicago. *New Statesman*, May 3, 1930, v. 35, p. 110-112.

Good general article on Chicago rackets. In conclusion it says that Chicago will find a way to deal with racketeering by the time of the fair in 1933.

Rackets of New York. *New Statesman*, Dec. 6, 1930, v. 36, p. 262-264.

A very fine article, showing that the rackets are quite as widespread in New York as in Chicago. Sums up the situation very well—the extent of the rackets and something about the programs that have been suggested to eradicate it. Has the advantage of being clearly written for an English periodical at sufficient distance to give some perspective.

Randolph, R. I. Business fights crime in Chicago. *Saturday Evening Post*, Aug. 12, 1930, v. 203, p. 12-13+.

This article is by the president of the Chicago Association of Commerce. He tells of the agencies in Chicago for doing away with rackets.

Randolph, R. I. How to wreck Capone's gang. *Colliers*, Mar. 7, 1931, v. 87, p. 7-9.

The author says that the beer racket is the biggest racket and brings in the largest profits; it is the basis of the power of the gangs. So if 4 per cent beer were made legal, the gangs would not be able to maintain their present power.

Reinhardt, C. G., and Coolbough, Kenneth. Employment rackets. *Saturday Evening Post*, Nov. 8, 1930, v. 203, p. 25+.

This is about the employment racket and the salesman racket.