

gangs of new york analysis

Gangs of New York Analysis: A Deep Dive into Scorsese's Gritty Masterpiece

Introduction:

Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York* isn't just a historical drama; it's a visceral experience, a sprawling tapestry woven with themes of immigration, class warfare, and the enduring legacy of violence. This in-depth analysis will dissect the film's intricate narrative, exploring its historical accuracy, character development, thematic depth, and lasting impact on cinema. We'll delve into the brutal beauty of its visuals, the power of its performances, and the complex questions it raises about identity, loyalty, and the cyclical nature of conflict. Prepare for a journey into the heart of 1860s New York, a city brimming with life, death, and the unwavering spirit of survival.

1. Historical Context and Accuracy:

Gangs of New York attempts to portray the tumultuous period of 1860s New York, a city grappling with rapid immigration, rampant poverty, and fierce gang warfare. While the film takes creative liberties, it draws inspiration from actual historical figures and events, most notably the infamous Five Points neighborhood. However, the film's portrayal of historical figures should be viewed with a critical eye. While it captures the atmosphere of the time remarkably well, it simplifies complex historical realities for the sake of narrative drive. The film's depiction of the Draft Riots, for instance, highlights the racial and class tensions of the era but perhaps exaggerates the degree of organized gang participation. Analyzing the film's historical accuracy necessitates acknowledging the artistic license taken to craft a compelling story. The research behind the film is considerable, but the story itself prioritizes dramatic effect over strict historical fidelity.

1. Character Analysis: Amsterdam Vallon and Bill "The Butcher" Cutting:

The film's central conflict revolves around the intense rivalry between Amsterdam Vallon and William "Bill the Butcher" Cutting. Amsterdam, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, represents the immigrant striving for upward mobility

amidst chaos. His quest for revenge against Bill, who killed his father years prior, fuels much of the narrative. Daniel Day-Lewis's portrayal of Bill the Butcher is iconic, a chilling depiction of brutal power and unwavering nativism. Bill embodies the anxieties of a disappearing social order, clinging to his dominance through violence and intimidation. Analyzing their relationship reveals a complex dynamic that transcends simple good versus evil. Their clash represents a struggle for control over the city, a battle mirroring the broader societal conflicts of the era. Further analysis reveals subtle nuances in their motivations, showcasing the complexities of their characters beyond simple archetypes.

1. Themes of Immigration, Class Warfare, and Nativism:

Gangs of New York powerfully explores the impact of mass immigration on 19th-century America. The film vividly depicts the struggles faced by Irish immigrants, subjected to discrimination, poverty, and violence. This struggle intersects with themes of class warfare, as the wealthy elite remain largely detached from the brutal realities experienced by the working class. Bill the Butcher's nativist sentiments embody the anti-immigrant sentiments prevalent at the time, fueling his hatred for Amsterdam and his fellow Irish immigrants. The film subtly critiques the societal structures that perpetuate inequality and marginalization, leaving the viewer to contemplate the cyclical nature of oppression and the enduring struggle for social justice. The themes presented are timeless and resonate strongly even in contemporary society.

1. Visual Style and Cinematography:

Scorsese's signature visual style is on full display in Gangs of New York. The film's gritty realism, coupled with its dynamic camerawork and visceral editing, immerses the viewer in the chaotic world of 19th-century New York. The use of color is deliberate, often employing a desaturated palette to enhance the film's bleak and brutal atmosphere. However, splashes of vibrant color are strategically used to highlight specific moments or characters, emphasizing the contrast between the grim reality and fleeting moments of beauty or hope. The detailed set designs and costumes contribute significantly to the film's immersive quality, transporting the viewer back in time to a vividly realized world. Analysis of the film's visuals reveals a deliberate artistic choice aimed at enhancing the thematic depth and emotional impact.

1. Legacy and Impact:

Gangs of New York remains a significant cinematic achievement, influencing subsequent historical dramas and crime films. Its influence can be seen in the attention to detail in set design, costume, and historical accuracy, setting a new standard for period films. The film's impact extends beyond its aesthetic qualities, though. Its exploration of complex themes like immigration, class warfare, and the cyclical nature of violence continues to resonate with audiences, prompting discussions about the enduring societal issues that the film portrays. Its legacy is cemented as a powerful and enduring work that transcends its historical setting.

Detailed Outline:

Title: A Comprehensive Analysis of Martin Scorsese's Gangs of New York

I. Introduction:

Brief overview of the film and its themes.

Statement of the analysis's purpose and scope.

II. Historical Context and Accuracy:

Examination of the film's historical setting (1860s New York).

Discussion of the film's historical accuracy and creative liberties.

Analysis of the portrayal of key historical events and figures.

III. Character Analysis:

In-depth analysis of Amsterdam Vallon and Bill "The Butcher" Cutting.

Exploration of their motivations, relationships, and character arcs.

Discussion of the supporting characters and their roles in the narrative.

IV. Thematic Exploration:

Analysis of the film's major themes (immigration, class warfare, nativist sentiments, revenge, etc.).

Examination of how these themes intersect and contribute to the overall narrative.

Discussion of the film's social and political commentary.

V. Visual Style and Cinematography:

Analysis of Scorsese's directorial style and its impact on the film's atmosphere.

Examination of the film's cinematography, editing, and mise-en-scène.

Discussion of the use of color, lighting, and other visual elements.

VI. Legacy and Impact:

Assessment of the film's critical reception and its influence on subsequent films.

Discussion of the film's enduring cultural relevance and thematic resonance.

Conclusion summarizing the key findings of the analysis.

(The following sections would expand on each point in the outline above,

mirroring the content already provided in the main article.)

FAQs:

1. Is Gangs of New York historically accurate? While inspired by real events and figures, the film takes creative liberties for narrative purposes. Its portrayal of history should be viewed critically.
1. What are the main themes of Gangs of New York? Immigration, class warfare, nativist sentiments, revenge, and the cyclical nature of violence are central themes.
1. Who are the main characters in Gangs of New York? Amsterdam Vallon and Bill "The Butcher" Cutting are the central characters, with a supporting cast that enriches the narrative.
1. What is Scorsese's directorial style in Gangs of New York? Scorsese employs his signature gritty realism, dynamic camerawork, and visceral editing to create a powerful and immersive cinematic experience.
1. What is the significance of the Five Points neighborhood in the film? The Five Points is a crucial setting representing the chaotic and violent underbelly of 19th-century New York.
1. How does the film portray the Draft Riots? The film uses the Draft Riots to highlight the racial and class tensions prevalent during that period.
1. What is the lasting impact of Gangs of New York? The film's influence is seen in its detailed historical portrayal and its exploration of enduring societal issues.

1. How does the film use visual elements to enhance its themes? Scorsese uses cinematography, color, and set design to create a powerful and immersive atmosphere that underscores the film's themes.
1. What makes Gangs of New York a significant cinematic achievement? Its powerful storytelling, memorable performances, and detailed historical recreation contribute to its lasting impact on cinema.

Related Articles:

1. The Historical Accuracy of Gangs of New York: An examination of the film's historical basis and its departures from historical fact.
1. Daniel Day-Lewis's Performance as Bill the Butcher: An in-depth analysis of Day-Lewis's iconic portrayal of the film's antagonist.
1. The Themes of Immigration and Nativism in Gangs of New York: A discussion of how the film explores the experiences of immigrants in 19th-century America.
1. Scorsese's Visual Style in Gangs of New York: An analysis of the film's cinematography, editing, and use of visual elements.
1. The Character Arc of Amsterdam Vallon: An exploration of Amsterdam's journey from seeking revenge to finding his place in the world.
1. Comparing Gangs of New York to other Scorsese Films: A comparative analysis of Gangs of New York within the context of Scorsese's broader filmography.

1. The Social Commentary in Gangs of New York: A discussion of the film's critique of social and political structures.

1. The Impact of Gangs of New York on the Historical Drama Genre: An assessment of the film's influence on subsequent historical dramas.

1. The Music and Score of Gangs of New York: An exploration of the film's musical composition and its contribution to its overall atmosphere.

gangs of new york analysis: The Gangs of New York Herbert Asbury, 1928

gangs of new york analysis: Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings Eric C. Schneider, 2021-01-12 They called themselves Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings. They were divided by race, ethnicity, and neighborhood boundaries, but united by common styles, slang, and codes of honor. They fought--and sometimes killed--to protect and expand their territories. In postwar New York, youth gangs were a colorful and controversial part of the urban landscape, made famous by West Side Story and infamous by the media. This is the first historical study to explore fully the culture of these gangs. Eric Schneider takes us into a world of switchblades and slums, zoot suits and bebop music to explain why youth gangs emerged, how they evolved, and why young men found membership and the violence it involved so attractive. Schneider begins by describing how postwar urban renewal, slum clearances, and ethnic migration pitted African-American, Puerto Rican, and Euro-American youths against each other in battles to dominate changing neighborhoods. But he argues that young men ultimately joined gangs less because of ethnicity than because membership and gang violence offered rare opportunities for adolescents alienated from school, work, or the family to win prestige, power, adulation from girls, and a masculine identity. In the course of the book, Schneider paints a rich and detailed portrait of everyday life in gangs, drawing on personal interviews with former members to re-create for us their language, music, clothing, and social mores. We learn what it meant to be a down bopper or a jive stud, to fish with a beautiful deb to the sounds of the Jesters, and to wear gang sweaters, wildly colored zoot suits, or the Ivy League look. He outlines the unwritten rules of gang behavior, the paths members followed to adulthood, and the effects of gang intervention programs, while also providing detailed analyses of such notorious gang-related crimes as the murders committed by the Capeman, Salvador Agron. Schneider focuses on the years from 1940 to 1975, but takes us up to the present in his conclusion, showing how youth gangs are no longer social organizations but economic units tied to the underground economy. Written with a profound understanding of adolescent culture and the street life of New York, this is a powerful work of history and a compelling story for a general audience.

gangs of new york analysis: *The Holly* Julian Rubinstein, 2021-05-11 An award-winning journalist's dramatic account of a shooting that shook a community to its core, with important implications for the future On the last evening of summer in 2013, five shots rang out in a part of northeast Denver known as the Holly. Long a destination for African American families fleeing the Jim Crow South, the area had become an "invisible city" within a historically white metropolis. While shootings there weren't uncommon, the identity of the shooter that night came as a shock. Terrance Roberts was a revered anti-gang activist. His attempts to bring peace to his community had won the

accolades of both his neighbors and the state's most important power brokers. Why had he just fired a gun? In *The Holly*, the award-winning Denver-based journalist Julian Rubinstein reconstructs the events that left a local gang member paralyzed and Roberts facing the possibility of life in prison. Much more than a crime story, *The Holly* is a multigenerational saga of race and politics that runs from the civil rights movement to Black Lives Matter. With a cast that includes billionaires, elected officials, cops, developers, and street kids, the book explores the porous boundaries between a city's elites and its most disadvantaged citizens. It also probes the fraught relationships between police, confidential informants, activists, gang members, and ex-gang members as they struggle to put their pasts behind them. In *The Holly*, we see how well-intentioned efforts to curb violence and improve neighborhoods can go badly awry, and we track the interactions of law enforcement with gang members who conceive of themselves as defenders of a neighborhood. When Roberts goes on trial, the city's fault lines are fully exposed. In a time of national reckoning over race, policing, and the uses and abuses of power, Rubinstein offers a dramatic and humane illumination of what's at stake.

gangs of new york analysis: *The Warriors* Sol Yurick, 2007-12-01 The basis for the cult-classic film and the inspiration for a concept album written by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Eisa Davis, executive produced by Nas, releasing from Atlantic Records on October 18 Every gang in the city meets on a sweltering July 4 night in a Bronx park for a peace rally. The crowd of miscreants turns violent after a prominent gang leader is killed, and chaos prevails over attempts at order. *The Warriors* follows the Dominators as they make their nocturnal journey to their home territory without being killed. The police are prowling the city in search of anyone involved in the mayhem. An exhilarating novel that examines New York City teenagers left behind by society, who form identity and personal strength through their affiliation with their family, *The Warriors* weaves together social commentary with ancient legends for a classic coming-of-age tale. This edition includes a new introduction by the author.

gangs of new york analysis: *Fixing Broken Windows* George L. Kelling, Catherine M. Coles, 1997 Cites successful examples of community-based policing.

gangs of new york analysis: *The Gang's All Queer* Vanessa R. Panfil, 2017-08-15 Honorable Mention, 2018 Distinguished Book Award presented by the American Sociological Association's Sociology of Sexualities Section The first inside look at gay gang members. Many people believe that gangs are made up of violent thugs who are in and out of jail, and who are hyper-masculine and heterosexual. In *The Gang's All Queer*, Vanessa Panfil introduces us to a different world. Meet gay gang members - sometimes referred to in popular culture as "homo thugs" - whose gay identity complicates criminology's portrayal and representation of gangs, gang members, and gang life. In vivid detail, Panfil provides an in-depth understanding of how gay gang members construct and negotiate both masculine and gay identities through crime and gang membership. *The Gang's All Queer* draws from interviews with over 50 gay gang- and crime-involved young men in Columbus, Ohio, the majority of whom are men of color in their late teens and early twenties, as well as on-the-ground ethnographic fieldwork with men who are in gay, hybrid, and straight gangs. Panfil provides an eye-opening portrait of how even members of straight gangs are connected to a same-sex oriented underground world. Most of these young men still present a traditionally masculine persona and voice deeply-held affection for their fellow gang members. They also fight with their enemies, many of whom are in rival gay gangs. Most come from impoverished, 'rough' neighborhoods, and seek to defy negative stereotypes of gay and Black men as deadbeats, though sometimes through illegal activity. Some are still closeted to their fellow gang members and families, yet others fight to defend members of the gay community, even those who they deem to be "fags," despite distaste for these flamboyant members of the community. And some perform in drag shows or sell sex to survive. *The Gang's All Queer* poignantly illustrates how these men both respond to and resist societal marginalization. Timely, powerful, and engaging, this book will challenge us to think differently about gangs, gay men, and urban life.

gangs of new york analysis: *Five Points* Tyler Anbinder, 2012-06-05 The very letters of the two words seem, as they are written, to redden with the blood-stains of unavenged crime. There is

Murder in every syllable, and Want, Misery and Pestilence take startling form and crowd upon the imagination as the pen traces the words. So wrote a reporter about Five Points, the most infamous neighborhood in nineteenth-century America, the place where slumming was invented. All but forgotten today, Five Points was once renowned the world over. Its handful of streets in lower Manhattan featured America's most wretched poverty, shared by Irish, Jewish, German, Italian, Chinese, and African Americans. It was the scene of more riots, scams, saloons, brothels, and drunkenness than any other neighborhood in the new world. Yet it was also a font of creative energy, crammed full of cheap theaters and dance halls, prizefighters and machine politicians, and meeting halls for the political clubs that would come to dominate not just the city but an entire era in American politics. From Jacob Riis to Abraham Lincoln, Davy Crockett to Charles Dickens, Five Points both horrified and inspired everyone who saw it. The story that Anbinder tells is the classic tale of America's immigrant past, as successive waves of new arrivals fought for survival in a land that was as exciting as it was dangerous, as riotous as it was culturally rich. Tyler Anbinder offers the first-ever history of this now forgotten neighborhood, drawing on a wealth of research among letters and diaries, newspapers and bank records, police reports and archaeological digs. Beginning with the Irish potato-famine influx in the 1840s, and ending with the rise of Chinatown in the early twentieth century, he weaves unforgettable individual stories into a tapestry of tenements, work crews, leisure pursuits both licit and otherwise, and riots and political brawls that never seemed to let up. Although the intimate stories that fill Anbinder's narrative are heart-wrenching, they are perhaps not so shocking as they first appear. Almost all of us trace our roots to once humble stock. Five Points is, in short, a microcosm of America.

gangs of new york analysis: A Pickpocket's Tale: The Underworld of Nineteenth-Century New York Timothy J. Gilfoyle, 2011-02-07 A true story more incredible than fiction. —Kevin Baker, author of *Striver's Row* In George Appo's world, child pickpockets swarmed the crowded streets, addicts drifted in furtive opium dens, and expert swindlers worked the lucrative green-goods game. On a good night Appo made as much as a skilled laborer made in a year. Bad nights left him with more than a dozen scars and over a decade in prisons from the Tombs and Sing Sing to the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminally Insane, where he reunited with another inmate, his father. The child of Irish and Chinese immigrants, Appo grew up in the notorious Five Points and Chinatown neighborhoods. He rose as an exemplar of the good fellow, a criminal who relied on wile, who followed a code of loyalty even in his world of deception. Here is the underworld of the New York that gave us Edith Wharton, Boss Tweed, Central Park, and the Brooklyn Bridge.

gangs of new york analysis: The Construction of Race and Nation in Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York" Boris Kirfel, 2004-03-21 Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 2,3 (B), University of Cologne (Institute for the English Language and its Didactic), course: Seminar: The Cultural Analysis of Contemporary American Films, language: English, abstract: „I believe in America. America has made my fortune.“ These are the very first two sentences in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* from 1972 - exactly the same year when director Martin Scorsese decided to film Herbert Asbury's non-fiction book *The Gangs of New York*. “Asbury (1891-1963) was a journalist and a pioneer historian of low life, whose *Gangs of New York* originally appeared in 1928, subtitled an informal history of the underworld.” (Christie 2003, p. 250) At the beginning of *The Godfather: Part II*, a film which is about the life of an Italian who immigrates to the United States in the 1920s, the film depicts the arrival of Italian immigrants at the New York harbor. All the passengers of the ship are full of expectation. They are looking at the famous Statue of Liberty, which welcomes America's new citizens. “Bring us your homeless and your poor”, is written in a poem by Emma Lazarus that is graven on a tablet within the pedestal on which the statue stands. (Cf. Christie 2003, p. 253) This sequence portrays the fulfilment of the American Dream. In 2002, after nearly 30 years of preparation, Martin Scorsese's epic *Gangs of New York* which is also set in New York one century before the action of *The Godfather* takes place, finally was released in the United States. Scorsese's film covers a period of New York City's history, from the 1840's through to the bloody Draft Riots of 1863, when graft and corruption

permeated every level of government including the police department. The Statue of Liberty had not been built at the time in which *Gangs of New York* is set (Cf. Metzger 2000, p. 23), and there aren't any Italians in the film. The movie concentrates on the struggle between the so called Native Americans and a huge number of Irish immigrants who arrive with ships every day. The picture describes America's birth from violence and the development of the country into the state which is presented in Coppola's *The Godfather* and former pictures by Martin Scorsese like *Goodfellas* or *Casino*. *Gangs of New York* is in a way the foundation of which all the other movies by Scorsese are based on.

gangs of new york analysis: *Tong Wars* Scott D. Seligman, 2016-07-12 A mesmerizing true story of money, murder, gambling, prostitution, and opium in a wild ramble around Chinatown in its darkest days. (The New Yorker) Nothing had worked. Not threats or negotiations, not shutting down the betting parlors or opium dens, not house-to-house searches or throwing Chinese offenders into prison. Not even executing them. The New York DA was running out of ideas and more people were dying every day as the weapons of choice evolved from hatchets and meat cleavers to pistols, automatic weapons, and even bombs. Welcome to New York City's Chinatown in 1925. The Chinese in turn-of-the-last-century New York were mostly immigrant peasants and shopkeepers who worked as laundrymen, cigar makers, and domestics. They gravitated to lower Manhattan and lived as Chinese an existence as possible, their few diversions—gambling, opium, and prostitution—available but, sadly, illegal. It didn't take long before one resourceful merchant saw a golden opportunity to feather his nest by positioning himself squarely between the vice dens and the police charged with shutting them down. *Tong Wars* is historical true crime set against the perfect landscape: Tammany-era New York City. Representatives of rival tongs (secret societies) corner the various markets of sin using admirably creative strategies. The city government was already corrupt from top to bottom, so once one tong began taxing the gambling dens and paying off the authorities, a rival, jealously eyeing its lucrative franchise, co-opted a local reformist group to help eliminate it. Pretty soon Chinese were slaughtering one another in the streets, inaugurating a succession of wars that raged for the next thirty years. Scott D. Seligman's account roars through three decades of turmoil, with characters ranging from gangsters and drug lords to reformers and do-gooders to judges, prosecutors, cops, and pols of every stripe and color. A true story set in Prohibition-era Manhattan a generation after *Gangs of New York*, but fought on the very same turf.

gangs of new york analysis: *A Brief History of Seven Killings* Marlon James, 2015-09-08 A tale inspired by the 1976 attempted assassination of Bob Marley spans decades and continents to explore the experiences of journalists, drug dealers, killers, and ghosts against a backdrop of social and political turmoil.

gangs of new york analysis: *Gang Life in Two Cities* Robert J. Durán, 2013-01-15 Refusing to cast gangs in solely criminal terms, Robert J. Durán, a former gang member turned scholar, recasts such groups as an adaptation to the racial oppression of colonization in the American Southwest. Developing a paradigm rooted in ethnographic research and almost two decades of direct experience with gangs, Durán completes the first-ever study to follow so many marginalized groups so intensely for so long, revealing their core characteristics, behavior, and activities within two unlikely American cities. Durán spent five years in Denver, Colorado, and Ogden, Utah, conducting 145 interviews with gang members, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other relevant individuals. From his research, he constructs a comparative outline of the emergence and criminalization of Latino youth groups, the ideals and worlds they create, and the reasons for their persistence. He also underscores the failures of violent gang suppression tactics, which have only further entrenched these groups within the barrio. Encouraging cultural activists and current and former gang members to pursue grassroots empowerment, Durán proposes new solutions to racial oppression that challenge and truly alter the conditions of gang life.

gangs of new york analysis: *Gangs in Garden City* Sarah Garland, 2010-11 For decades street gangs have been synonymous with inner cities, where drugs and drive-by shootings are a fact of daily life. But in a disturbing new trend two gangs - Mara Salvatrucha and 18th Street - with their

roots in Central America and Los Angeles, have ventured beyond our urban centers and into America's most exclusive suburbs. For the past five years journalist Sarah Garland has reported on the changing landscape and demographics of Hempstead, Long Island, following the lives of current and former gang members. In *Gangs in Garden City* she tells their stories. We meet Julio, a Salvadoran civil war veteran escaping the violence back home only to join Mara Salvatrucha in Los Angeles, and flee again for New York; Jessica, who comes from a family of Mara Salvatrucha members yet chooses to join a rival gang; and twelve-year-old Daniel, a recent Salvadoran immigrant who must choose between his best friend and the gang as he fights off bullies and tries to fit in. They have the same dreams and the same problems as suburban teenagers everywhere - except they learn the only way to survive is to join the rising tide of violence that surrounds them. Their disturbing personal narratives expose the cruel reality of segregation, racial income gaps, and poverty, which lie hidden behind suburban white picket fences in a pattern repeated all across America. While the gangs' growth has provoked a nationwide panic and a decade of federal and local law enforcement crackdowns, she asks why their spread is so prevalent, and what it reveals about the fractures in American society. *Gangs in Garden City* not only explores our false assumptions about these gangs, but also shows how immigration raids, rising incarceration rates, suburban decay, and inadequate funding of our nation's schools have worsened an alarming situation. Fearlessly reported and sensitively told, *Gangs in Garden City* unveils a hidden, troubling world that exists in the shadows of our own. Garland shows how the gangs next door will continue to spread - and thrive - if we do not act quickly to uproot them.

gangs of new york analysis: Murder, Inc., and the Moral Life Robert Weldon Whalen, 2016-09-01 In 1940 and 1941 a group of ruthless gangsters from Brooklyn's Brownsville neighborhood became the focus of media frenzy when they—dubbed “Murder Inc.,” by New York World-Telegram reporter Harry Feeney—were tried for murder. It is estimated that collectively they killed hundreds of people during a reign of terror that lasted from 1931 to 1940. As the trial played out to a packed courtroom, shocked spectators gasped at the outrageous revelations made by gang leader Abe “Kid Twist” Reles and his pack of criminal accomplices. News of the trial proliferated throughout the country; at times it received more newspaper coverage than the unabated war being waged overseas. The heinous crimes attributed to Murder, Inc., included not only murder and torture but also auto theft, burglary, assaults, robberies, fencing stolen goods, distribution of illegal drugs, and just about any “illegal activity from which a revenue could be derived.” When the trial finally came to a stunning unresolved conclusion in November 1941, newspapers generated record headlines. Once the trial was over, tales of the Murder, Inc., gang became legendary, spawning countless books and memoirs and providing inspiration for the Hollywood gangster-movie genre. These men were fearsome brutes with an astonishing ability to wield power. People were fascinated by the “gangster” figure, which had become a symbol for moral evil and contempt and whose popularity showed no signs of abating. As both a study in criminal behavior and a cultural fascination that continues to permeate modern society, the reverberations of “Murder, Inc.” are profound, including references in contemporary mass media. The *Murder, Inc.*, story is as much a tale of morality as it is a gangster history, and *Murder, Inc., and the Moral Life* by Robert Whalen meshes both topics clearly and meticulously, relating the gangster phenomenon to modern moral theory. Each chapter covers an aspect of the *Murder, Inc.*, case and reflects on its ethical elements and consequences. Whalen delves into the background of the criminals involved, their motives, and the violent death that surrounded them; New York City's immigrant gang culture and its role as “Gangster City”; fiery politicians Fiorello La Guardia and Thomas E. Dewey and the choices they made to clean up the city; and the role of the gangster in popular culture and how it relates to “real life.” Whalen puts a fresh spin on the two topics, providing a vivid narrative with both historical and moral perspective.

gangs of new york analysis: Youth Street Gangs David C. Brotherton, 2015-04-24 Gangs have been heavily pathologized in the last several decades. In comparison to the pioneering Chicago School's work on gangs in the 1920s we have moved away from a humanistic appraisal of and

sensitivity toward the phenomenon and have allowed the gang to become a highly plastic folk devil outside of history. This pathologization of the gang has particularly negative consequences for democracy in an age of punishment, cruelty and coercive social control. This is the central thesis of David Brotherton's new and highly contentious book on street gangs. Drawing on a wealth of highly acclaimed original research, Brotherton explores the socially layered practices of street gangs, including community movements, cultural projects and sites of social resistance. The book also critically reviews gang theory and the geographical trajectories of streets gangs from New York and Puerto Rico to Europe, the Caribbean and South America, as well as state-sponsored reactions and the enabling role of orthodox criminology. In opposition to the dominant gang discourses, Brotherton proposes the development of a critical studies approach to gangs and concludes by making a plea for researchers to engage the gang reflexively, paying attention to the contradictory agency of the gang and what gang members actually tell us. The book is essential reading for academics and students involved in the study of juvenile delinquency, youth studies, deviance, gang studies and cultural criminology.

gangs of new york analysis: Scotland's Gang Members Robert McLean, James A. Densley, 2020-06-11 Drawing on extensive life-history interviews with serious violent offenders, this book offers a unique socio-historical analysis of gang membership and gang evolution in Glasgow, Scotland's largest city. The book chronicles the lives of young men in and around Glasgow from early childhood to present day and examines the lived experience of family, friendship, community, and crime. It demonstrates how street reputations are won and lost and how gang membership is not a single event but an experiential process of offending, victimisation, consensus, and conflict. The book follows the young men's descent into knife crime and street violence and the impact of imprisonment on their life chances. Detailed narratives capture how they individually and collectively transitioned from street violence to profit-driven organised crime, before eventually disengaging from gangs and desisting from offending. The book concludes with an in-depth discussion of the evolution of gangs and organised crime in the 21st century and in the inner-workings of Scotland's marketplace for illegal goods and services, with implications for police, practitioners, and policymakers. A page-turner from start to finish, Scotland's Gang Members is a truly unique contribution to knowledge about gangs and crime, written to high academic standards but readable and accessible to all.

gangs of new york analysis: Gang Leader for a Day Sudhir Venkatesh, 2008-01-10 A New York Times Bestseller A rich portrait of the urban poor, drawn not from statistics but from vivid tales of their lives and his, and how they intertwined. —The Economist A sensitive, sympathetic, unpatronizing portrayal of lives that are usually ignored or lumped into ill-defined stereotype. —Financial Times Foreword by Stephen J. Dubner, coauthor of Freakonomics When first-year graduate student Sudhir Venkatesh walked into an abandoned building in one of Chicago's most notorious housing projects, he hoped to find a few people willing to take a multiple-choice survey on urban poverty--and impress his professors with his boldness. He never imagined that as a result of this assignment he would befriend a gang leader named JT and spend the better part of a decade embedded inside the projects under JT's protection. From a privileged position of unprecedented access, Venkatesh observed JT and the rest of his gang as they operated their crack-selling business, made peace with their neighbors, evaded the law, and rose up or fell within the ranks of the gang's complex hierarchical structure. Examining the morally ambiguous, highly intricate, and often corrupt struggle to survive in an urban war zone, Gang Leader for a Day also tells the story of the complicated friendship that develops between Venkatesh and JT--two young and ambitious men a universe apart. Sudhir Venkatesh's latest book Floating City: A Rogue Sociologist Lost and Found in New York's Underground Economy—a memoir of sociological investigation revealing the true face of America's most diverse city—is also published by Penguin Press.

gangs of new york analysis: Delta-v Daniel Suarez, 2019-04-23 The bestselling author of Daemon returns with a near-future technological thriller, in which a charismatic billionaire recruits a team of adventurers to launch the first deep space mining operation--a mission that could alter the

trajectory of human civilization. When itinerant cave diver James Tighe receives an invitation to billionaire Nathan Joyce's private island, he thinks it must be a mistake. But Tighe's unique skill set makes him a prime candidate for Joyce's high-risk venture to mine a near-earth asteroid--with the goal of kick-starting an entire off-world economy. The potential rewards and personal risks are staggering, but the competition is fierce and the stakes couldn't be higher. Isolated and pushed beyond their breaking points, Tighe and his fellow twenty-first century adventurers--ex-soldiers, former astronauts, BASE jumpers, and mountain climbers--must rely on each other to survive not only the dangers of a multi-year expedition but the harsh realities of business in space. They're determined to transform humanity from an Earth-bound species to a space-faring one--or die trying.

gangs of new york analysis: Can't Stop Won't Stop Jeff Chang, 2007-04-01 *Can't Stop Won't Stop* is a powerful cultural and social history of the end of the American century, and a provocative look into the new world that the hip-hop generation created. Forged in the fires of the Bronx and Kingston, Jamaica, hip-hop became the Esperanto of youth rebellion and a generation-defining movement. In a post-civil rights era defined by deindustrialization and globalization, hip-hop crystallized a multiracial, polycultural generation's worldview, and transformed American politics and culture. But that epic story has never been told with this kind of breadth, insight, and style. Based on original interviews with DJs, b-boys, rappers, graffiti writers, activists, and gang members, with unforgettable portraits of many of hip-hop's forebears, founders, and mavericks, including DJ Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa, Chuck D, and Ice Cube, *Can't Stop Won't Stop* chronicles the events, the ideas, the music, and the art that marked the hip-hop generation's rise from the ashes of the 60's into the new millennium.

gangs of new york analysis: Brooklyn Gang Bruce Davidson, 1998 In 1959, Bruce Davidson read about the teenage gangs of New York City. Connecting with a social worker to make initial contact with a gang in Brooklyn called The Jokers, Davidson became a daily observer and photographer of this alienated youth culture. The Fifties are often considered passive and pale by our standards of urban reality, but Davidson's photographs prove otherwise. Nearly 70 sheet-fed gravure plates show images of tough people, tough lives, tough lovers, all trying to be cool. They are followed by a short recollection by the photographer and a lengthier interview with Bengie, a surviving gang member, who is now a drug counselor.--Magnum Photo.

gangs of new york analysis: Gangs of Russia Svetlana Stephenson, 2015-10-15 Since their spectacular rise in the 1990s, Russian gangs have remained entrenched in many parts of the country. Some gang members have perished in gang wars or ended up behind prison bars, while others have made spectacular careers off the streets and joined the Russian elite. But the rank and file of gangs remain substantially incorporated into their communities and society as a whole, with bonds and identities that bridge the worlds of illegal enterprise and legal respectability. In *Gangs of Russia*, Svetlana Stephenson explores the secretive world of the gangs. Using in-depth interviews with gang members, law enforcers, and residents in the city of Kazan, together with analyses of historical and sociological accounts from across Russia, she presents the history of gangs both before and after the arrival of market capitalism. Contrary to predominant notions of gangs as collections of maladjusted delinquents or illegal enterprises, Stephenson argues, Russian gangs should be seen as traditional, close-knit male groups with deep links to their communities. Stephenson shows that gangs have long been intricately involved with the police and other state structures in configurations that are both personal and economic. She also explains how the cultural orientations typical of gangs—emphasis on loyalty to one's own, showing toughness to outsiders, exacting revenge for perceived affronts and challenges—are not only found on the streets but are also present in the top echelons of today's Russian state.

gangs of new york analysis: Youth Gangs James C. Howell, 1998 The United States has seen rapid proliferation of youth gangs since 1980. During this period, the number of cities with gang problems increased from an estimated 286 jurisdictions with more than 2,000 gangs and nearly 100,000 gang members in 1980 (Miller, 1992) to about 4,800 jurisdictions with more than 31,000 gangs and approximately 846,000 gang members in 1996 (Moore and Terrett, in press). An 11-city

survey of eighth graders found that 9 percent were currently gang members, and 17 percent said they had belonged to a gang at some point in their lives (Esbensen and Osgood, 1997). Other studies reported comparable percentages and also showed that gang members were responsible for a large proportion of violent offenses. In the Rochester site of the OJJDP-funded Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency, gang members (30 percent of the sample) self-reported committing 68 percent of all violent offenses (Thornberry, 1998). In the Denver site, adolescent gang members (14 percent of the sample) self-reported committing 89 percent of all serious violent offenses (Huizinga, 1997). In another study, supported by OJJDP and several other agencies and organizations, adolescent gang members in Seattle (15 percent of the sample) self-reported involvement in 85 percent of robberies committed by the entire sample (Battin et al., 1998). This Bulletin reviews data and research to consolidate available knowledge on youth gangs that are involved in criminal activity. Following a historical perspective, demographic information is presented. The scope of the problem is assessed, including gang problems in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. Several issues are then addressed by reviewing gang studies to provide a clearer understanding of youth gang problems. An extensive list of references is provided for further review.

gangs of new york analysis: God's Gangs Edward Flores, 2014 Winner, 2014 Distinguished Contribution to Research Award presented by the Latina/o Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association Los Angeles is the epicenter of the American gang problem. Rituals and customs from Los Angeles' eastside gangs, including hand signals, graffiti, and clothing styles, have spread to small towns and big cities alike. Many see the problem with gangs as related to urban marginality—for a Latino immigrant population struggling with poverty and social integration, gangs offer a close-knit community. Yet, as Edward Orozco Flores argues in *God's Gangs*, gang members can be successfully redirected out of gangs through efforts that change the context in which they find themselves, as well as their notions of what it means to be a man. Flores here illuminates how Latino men recover from gang life through involvement in urban, faith-based organizations. Drawing on participant observation and interviews with Homeboy Industries, a Jesuit-founded non-profit that is one of the largest gang intervention programs in the country, and with Victory Outreach, a Pentecostal ministry with over 600 chapters, Flores demonstrates that organizations such as these facilitate recovery from gang life by enabling gang members to reinvent themselves as family men and as members of their community. The book offers a window into the process of redefining masculinity. As Flores convincingly shows, gang members are not trapped in a cycle of poverty and marginality. With the help of urban ministries, such men construct a reformed barrio masculinity to distance themselves from gang life.

gangs of new york analysis: A World of Gangs John Hagedorn, 2008 On the street with gangs in three world cities - Chicago, Rio de Janeiro, and Capetown - Hagedorn discovers that many of them have institutionalized as a strategy to confront a hopeless cycle of poverty, racism, and oppression. The nihilistic appeal of gangsta rap and its ethic of survival by any means necessary, he argues, provides vital insights into the ideology and persistence of gangs around the world. Proposing how gangs can be encouraged to overcome their violent tendencies, Hagedorn appeals to community leaders to use the urgency, outrage, and resistance common to both gang life and hip-hop to bring gangs into broader movements for social justice.--BOOK JACKET.

gangs of new york analysis: Sex Money Murder: A Story of Crack, Blood, and Betrayal Jonathan Green, 2018-05-15 Nominated for an Edgar Award "Exceptionally authentic."—Jill Leovy, *The New York Times Book Review* In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Bronx had one of the country's highest per capita homicide rates. As crack cocaine use surged, dealers claimed territory through intimidation and murder, while families were fractured by crime and incarceration. Chronicling the rise and fall of Sex Money Murder, one of the era's most notorious gangs, reporter Jonathan Green creates a visceral and devastating portrait of a New York City borough and the dedicated detectives and prosecutors struggling to stem the tide of violence. Drawing on years of research and extraordinary access to gang leaders, law enforcement, and federal prosecutors, Green

delivers an engrossing work of gritty urban reportage. Magisterial in its scope, *Sex Money Murder* offers a unique perspective on the violence raging in modern-day America and the battle to end it.

gangs of new york analysis: The Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation David Brotherton, Luis Barrios, 2004 How a notorious street gang became a social organization providing leadership to New York City's Latino/a youths.

gangs of new york analysis: The Gangs Of Chicago Herbert Asbury, 2016-07-26 This classic history of crime tells how Chicago's underworld earned-and kept-its reputation. Recounting the lives of such notorious denizens as the original Mickey Finn, the mass murderer H. H. Holmes, and the three Car Barn Bandits, Asbury reveals life as it was lived in the criminal districts of the Levee, Hell's Half-Acre, the Bad Lands, Little Cheyenne, Custom House Place, and the Black Hole. His description of Chicago's infamous red light district-where the brothels boasted opulence unheard of before or since- vividly captures the wicked splendor that was Chicago. *The Gangs of Chicago* spans from the time "Slab Town" was settled to Prohibition days. The story of Chicago's golden age of crime climaxes with a dramatic account of the careers of the "biggest of the Big Shots": Big Jim Colosimo, Terrible Johnny Torrio, and the elusive Al Capone.

gangs of new york analysis: The Youth Gang Problem Irving A. Spergel, 1995 This systematic analysis of the youth gang problem in the USA focuses on current patterns of gang behaviour, with reference to historical and cross-cultural dimensions. The author integrates his own theory and practices with material on research programmes set up to address the problem.

gangs of new york analysis: Teaching What Really Happened James W. Loewen, 2018-09-07 "Should be in the hands of every history teacher in the country."— Howard Zinn James Loewen has revised *Teaching What Really Happened*, the bestselling, go-to resource for social studies and history teachers wishing to break away from standard textbook retellings of the past. In addition to updating the scholarship and anecdotes throughout, the second edition features a timely new chapter entitled Truth that addresses how traditional and social media can distort current events and the historical record. Helping students understand what really happened in the past will empower them to use history as a tool to argue for better policies in the present. Our society needs engaged citizens now more than ever, and this book offers teachers concrete ideas for getting students excited about history while also teaching them to read critically. It will specifically help teachers and students tackle important content areas, including Eurocentrism, the American Indian experience, and slavery. Book Features: An up-to-date assessment of the potential and pitfalls of U.S. and world history education. Information to help teachers expect, and get, good performance from students of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Strategies for incorporating project-oriented self-learning, having students conduct online historical research, and teaching historiography. Ideas from teachers across the country who are empowering students by teaching what really happened. Specific chapters dedicated to five content topics usually taught poorly in today's schools.

gangs of new york analysis: Renegade Dreams Laurence Ralph, 2014-09-15 Inner city communities in the US have become junkyards of dreams, to quote Mike Davis wastelands where gangs package narcotics to stimulate the local economy, gunshots occur multiple times on any given day, and dreams of a better life can fade into the realities of poverty and disability. Laurence Ralph lived in such a community in Chicago for three years, conducting interviews and participating in meetings with members of the local gang which has been central to the community since the 1950s. Ralph discovered that the experience of injury, whether physical or social, doesn't always crush dreams into oblivion; it can transform them into something productive: renegade dreams. The first part of this book moves from a critique of the way government officials, as opposed to grandmothers, have been handling the situation, to a study of the history of the historic Divine Knights gang, to a portrait of a duo of gang members who want to be recognized as authentic rappers (they call their musical style crack music) and the difficulties they face in exiting the gang. The second part is on physical disability, including being wheelchair bound, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among heroin users, and the experience of brutality at the hands of Chicago police officers. In a final chapter, The

Frame, Or How to Get Out of an Isolated Space, Ralph offers a fresh perspective on how to understand urban violence. The upshot is a total portrait of the interlocking complexities, symbols, and vicissitudes of gang life in one of the most dangerous inner city neighborhoods in the US. We expect this study will enjoy considerable readership, among anthropologists, sociologists, and other scholars interested in disability, urban crime, and race.

gangs of new york analysis: In Search of Respect Philippe I. Bourgois, 2003 This new edition brings this study of inner-city life up to date.

gangs of new york analysis: Routledge International Handbook of Critical Gang Studies David C. Brotherton, Rafael Jose Gude, 2021-07-28 Routledge International Handbook of Critical Gang Studies is rooted in the instability, inequality and liquidity of the post-industrial era. It understands the gang as a complex and contradictory phenomenon; a socio-historical agent that reflects, responds to and creates a certain structured environment in spaces which are always in flux. International in scope and drawing on a range of sociological, criminological and anthropological traditions, it looks beyond pathological, ahistorical and non-transformative approaches, and considers other important factors that produce the phenomenon, whether the historically entrenched racialized power structure and segregation in Chicago; the unconstrained state-abandoned development of favelas in Brazil; or the colonization, displacement and dependency of people in Central America. This handbook reflects and defines the new theoretical and empirical traditions of critical gang studies. It offers a variety of perspectives, including: A view of gangs that takes into consideration the global context and appearance of the gang in its various forms and stages of development; An appreciation of the gang as a socio-cultural formation; A race-ethnic and class analysis of the gang that problematizes domain assumptions such as the underclass; Gender variations of the gang phenomenon with a particular emphasis on their intersectional properties; Relations between gangs and the political economy that address the dominant mode of production and exchange; Treatments that demonstrate the historically contingent nature of gangs and their changes across time; The contradictory impact of gang repressive policies, institutions and practices as part of a broader discussion on the nature of the state in specific societies; and Critical methodologies on gangs that involve discussions of visual and textual representations and the problematics of data collection and analysis. Authoritative, multi-disciplinary and international, this book will be of interest to criminologists, sociologists and anthropologists alike, particularly those engaged with critical criminology/sociology, youth crime, delinquency and global social inequality. The Handbook will also be of interest to policy makers and those in the peacebuilding field.

gangs of new york analysis: *Gangs and Delinquency in Developmental Perspective* Terence P. Thornberry, 2003 Sample Text

gangs of new york analysis: Street Gangs Max G. Manwaring, 2005 The primary thrust of the monograph is to explain the linkage of contemporary criminal street gangs (that is, the gang phenomenon or third generation gangs) to insurgency in terms of the instability it wreaks upon government and the concomitant challenge to state sovereignty. Although there are differences between gangs and insurgents regarding motives and modes of operations, this linkage infers that gang phenomena are mutated forms of urban insurgency. In these terms, these new nonstate actors must eventually seize political power in order to guarantee the freedom of action and the commercial environment they want. The common denominator that clearly links the gang phenomenon to insurgency is that the third generation gangs' and insurgents' ultimate objective is to depose or control the governments of targeted countries. As a consequence, the Duck Analogy applies. Third generation gangs look like ducks, walk like ducks, and act like ducks - a peculiar breed, but ducks nevertheless! This monograph concludes with recommendations for the United States and other countries to focus security and assistance responses at the strategic level. The intent is to help leaders achieve strategic clarity and operate more effectively in the complex politically dominated, contemporary global security arena.

gangs of new york analysis: Snitch Allison van Diepen, 2013-09-03 Lines are clearly marked at South Bay High School. It's mixed territory for the Crips and the Bloods, which means the drama

never stops. Julia DiVino wants none of it. No colors, no C-Walks— it's just not her thing. But when Eric Valiente jumps into her life, everything changes. Lines are redrawn. And then they're crossed.

gangs of new york analysis: Disco's Out...Murder's In! Heath Mattioli, David Spacone, 2015-10-19 Famous for its revolutionary aspects in musical, political, sexual identity and consumerist ideas, punk rock also has its lesser-known gangster ethos as well, explained here by players in the various punk gangs. The Los Angeles, Orange County, and South Bay punk scenes, populated by blue collar kids who responded to the violence and aggression of punk songs and shows. A number of them formed punk gangs that got into beatings, drug dealing and murder. Among them, no gang was more notorious than La Mirada Punks, or LMP. Says LMP chieftain Frank the Shank after getting arrested by police for murder: After having my hands in so much bloodshed over the years, I most certainly had it coming. I deserved whatever I got. Unexpectedly Frank was bailed out from prison by his father's friend, a mob gangster. Too many people died at the hands of punk rock violence, said Frank. I got lucky, some didn't. As an ultra-violent punk rock gangster, I admit my part in ruining the scene. L.A. punk was a magical moment of youth expression like no other. And the gangs ruined punk rock. I still have people telling me today that they quit punk because of LMP. I dig graves at a small cemetery just outside Los Angeles. What else would you expect for Frank the Shank? Cover illustration by the renowned Raymond Pettibon.

gangs of new york analysis: Made Men Glenn Kenny, 2020-09-15 A revealing look at the making of Martin Scorsese's iconic mob movie and its enduring legacy, featuring interviews with its legendary cast. When Goodfellas first hit the theatres in 1990, a classic was born. Few could anticipate the unparalleled influence it would have on pop culture, one that would inspire future filmmakers and redefine the gangster picture as we know it today. From the rush of grotesque violence in the opening scene to the iconic hilarity of Joe Pesci's endlessly quoted "Funny how?" shtick, it's little wonder the film is widely regarded as a mainstay in contemporary cinema. In the first ever behind-the-scenes story of Goodfellas, film critic Glenn Kenny chronicles the making and afterlife of the film that introduced the real modern gangster. Featuring interviews with the film's major players, including Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro, Made Men shines a light on the lives and stories wrapped up in the Goodfellas universe, and why its enduring legacy has such a hold on American culture. A Library Journal Best Book of the Year A Sight and Sound Best Film Book of 2020

gangs of new york analysis: Views from the Streets Roberto Aspholm, 2019-11-26 Views from the Streets explains the dramatic transformation of black street gangs on Chicago's South Side during the early twenty-first century. Drawing on years of community work and in-depth interviews with gang members, Roberto R. Aspholm sheds new light on why gang violence persists and what might be done to address it.

gangs of new york analysis: Jonathan Livingston Seagull Richard Bach, 2014-10-21 Includes the rediscovered part four--Cover.

gangs of new york analysis: Empire City Kenneth T. Jackson, David S. Dunbar, 2002 This major anthology brings together the best literary writing about New York--from O. Henry, Theodore Dreiser, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and John Steinbeck to Paul Auster and James Baldwin.

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