Organized crime emerges from the ethnic neighborhoods of America’s biggest cities. Small-time street hoodlums evolve into millionaire bootleggers thanks to Prohibition. The St. Valentine’s Day Massacre in 1929 in Chicago turns up the heat on the Mob. The growth of organized crime compels politicians to expand law enforcement’s power and reach.

After Prohibition, organized crime continues to expand into a range of different rackets. The Kefauver Committee hearings, including one conducted in the courtroom on this floor, expose the Mob’s criminal activities across the country. Syndicates invest in Las Vegas and pocket millions of untaxed dollars from the casinos. The Mob’s corruption of politicians and unions prompts a federal crackdown.

New tactics, technologies and laws give law enforcement the upper hand in its long battle with the Mob. Massive busts and trials cripple Mafia families in cities across America. In the 21st century, the diminished traditional Mob is overshadowed by new transnational groups such as Mexican drug cartels, Russian syndicates and cybercrime networks.

When Prohibition takes effect in 1920, America’s saloons, distilleries and breweries are shut down. But Prohibition doesn’t end alcohol consumption or production. It merely drives the industry underground. Speakeasies are the beating heart of the Roaring '20s, a time of dramatic cultural change. Besides providing illegal liquor, speakeasies cultivate jazz music, dance crazes and the rise of the flappers – young women who embrace bold fashions and liberated behavior.