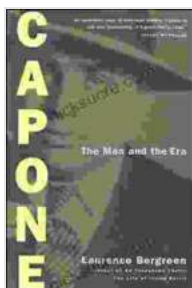


# Al Capone: The Man and the Era



## Capone: The Man and the Era by Laurence Bergreen

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 18923 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 724 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported

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Alphonse Gabriel Capone, better known as Al Capone or "Scarface," was an American gangster who became a symbol of the Prohibition era in the 1920s and 1930s. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Capone rose through the ranks of organized crime in Chicago, eventually becoming the head of the Chicago Outfit, a powerful criminal syndicate that controlled much of the city's illicit activities, including bootlegging, gambling, and prostitution. Capone's brutal tactics and ruthless ambition made him one of the most feared criminals in American history.

### **Rise to Power**



Capone's criminal career began in New York City, where he worked as a bouncer and enforcer for various gangs. In 1919, he moved to Chicago to join the Outfit, which was then led by Johnny Torrio. Under Torrio's mentorship, Capone quickly rose through the ranks, becoming known for his ruthlessness and efficiency. When Torrio retired in 1925, Capone took over as boss of the Outfit and began to consolidate his power.

Capone's rise to power coincided with the Prohibition era, which banned the sale and consumption of alcohol in the United States. The ban created a lucrative black market for alcohol, which Capone and his gang were quick to exploit. Through a network of speakeasies, bootleggers, and corrupt officials, Capone's Outfit controlled a significant portion of the alcohol trade in Chicago.

## **The Roaring Twenties**



The 1920s were a time of great economic growth and social change in the United States. The decade was also known as the Roaring Twenties due to

the widespread loosening of social norms and the rise of speakeasies, jazz clubs, and flappers. Capone's Outfit thrived during this period, taking advantage of the increased demand for alcohol and the lax enforcement of Prohibition laws.

Capone's wealth and power grew rapidly during the Roaring Twenties. He owned a luxurious mansion in Chicago's Cicero neighborhood, known as the Lexington Hotel, which became a notorious hangout for gangsters and celebrities alike. Capone also became a celebrity in his own right, appearing in the news and even making guest appearances in films.

### **The Empire Crumbles**

**AL CAPONE AND**  
The Real Story of the Untouchables  
**ELIOT NESS**

In-person presentation  
**Tuesday**  
**October 18**  
**6:30 pm**

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Capone's reign of terror came to an end in the early 1930s, thanks to the efforts of Eliot Ness and the Untouchables, a group of federal agents dedicated to bringing down the Outfit. Ness and his team used innovative

investigative techniques to gather evidence against Capone and his associates, eventually leading to their indictment on tax evasion charges.

In 1931, Capone was convicted of tax evasion and sentenced to 11 years in federal prison. He was initially sent to Atlanta Federal Penitentiary but was later transferred to the infamous Alcatraz Island, where he spent the rest of his life.

## **Legacy and Impact**



Al Capone's legacy is a complex one. He is remembered as one of the most notorious gangsters in American history, but he was also a product of his time. The Prohibition era created a unique set of circumstances that allowed Capone and other criminals to flourish.

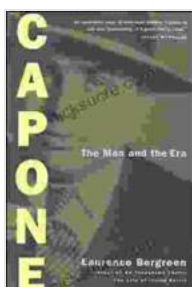
Capone's impact on American culture is undeniable. He has been the subject of numerous books, films, and television shows. His name has

become synonymous with organized crime and the Roaring Twenties.

Capone's legacy serves as a reminder of the dangers of unchecked power and the importance of upholding the rule of law.

Al Capone was a complex and enigmatic figure whose life and era continue to fascinate us today. From his humble beginnings in Brooklyn to his reign of terror in Chicago, Capone's story is a tale of power, ambition, and the consequences of unchecked crime.

Capone's legacy is a reminder of the importance of strong law enforcement and the dangers of organized crime. It is also a cautionary tale about the corrosive effects of power and the importance of ethical behavior.



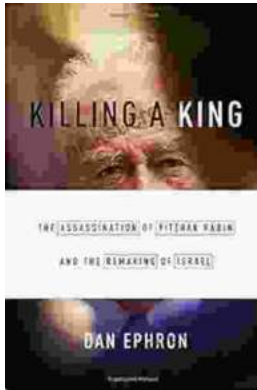
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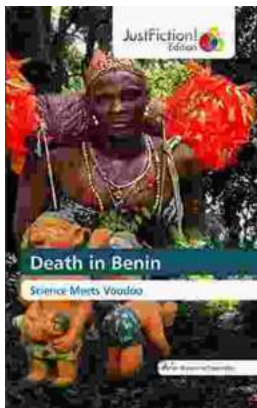






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