

# The Explosive Inside Story Of The Mobster Who Controlled America

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In the annals of organized crime, few figures loom larger than Anthony "Fat Tony" Salerno. For decades, Salerno reigned as the undisputed boss of the Genovese crime family, one of the "Five Families" that controlled organized crime in New York City. Salerno's rise to power was marked by violence, corruption, and ruthless ambition. He was a man who seemingly had everything - wealth, power, and control. But behind the façade of success, Salerno's life was a tale of greed, betrayal, and ultimately, downfall.

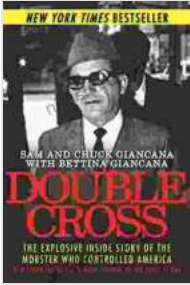
**Early Life and Criminal Beginnings** Anthony Salerno was born in East Harlem, New York, on July 17, 1911. His parents were Italian immigrants who struggled to make ends meet. As a young man, Salerno dropped out of school and turned to crime. He quickly rose through the ranks of the Genovese family, becoming a trusted lieutenant to boss Vito Genovese.

Salerno's criminal activities included labor racketeering, extortion, and illegal gambling. He was also a major player in the construction industry, using his connections to secure lucrative contracts. By the mid-1950s, Salerno had become one of the most powerful figures in the Genovese family.

**Double Cross: The Explosive Inside Story of the Mobster Who Controlled America** by Sam Giancana

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 18249 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 498 pages
Lending	: Enabled



**Rise to Power**In 1957, Vito Genovese was convicted of murder and sent to prison. This left a power vacuum at the top of the Genovese family. Salerno seized the opportunity and, with the backing of other powerful mobsters, became the new boss.

As boss, Salerno expanded the family's influence into new areas, including waste disposal, vending machines, and the garment industry. He also developed close ties to corrupt politicians and law enforcement officials, ensuring the family's protection.

**The Crime Boss as a Celebrity**Salerno's wealth and power made him a celebrity in certain circles. He was known for his flamboyant lifestyle, his love of fine dining, and his collection of luxury cars. Salerno was also a regular at high-profile social events, hobnobbing with politicians, celebrities, and other powerful figures.

**The Web of Corruption**Salerno was not only a powerful crime boss but also a master manipulator. He used his connections to corrupt politicians, judges, and law enforcement officials. He also had a network of informants who kept him abreast of police investigations and rival mob activities.

Through his web of corruption, Salerno was able to operate with impunity for years. He avoided prosecution for even the most serious crimes, and his family continued to grow in wealth and influence.

**The Teflon Don** Salerno's ability to evade justice earned him the nickname "The Teflon Don." Like Teflon, nothing seemed to stick to him. Witnesses were afraid to testify against him, evidence mysteriously disappeared, and charges were often dismissed.

Salerno's reign of terror seemed unbreakable. But behind the façade, there were cracks beginning to appear.

**Betrayal and Downfall** Salerno's closest confidant and underboss, Salvatore Gravano, grew tired of his boss's tyranny. Gravano decided to cooperate with the authorities and turned state's evidence.

Gravano's testimony was devastating. He provided details of Salerno's criminal activities, including murder, extortion, and racketeering. With Gravano's help, prosecutors were finally able to build a case against the Teflon Don.

In 1986, Salerno was convicted of multiple charges and sentenced to 100 years in prison. He died in prison in 1992, at the age of 81.

**Legacy of Violence and Corruption** Anthony Salerno's legacy is one of violence, corruption, and greed. He ruled with an iron fist, using fear and intimidation to maintain his power. He left a trail of broken lives and shattered dreams in his wake.

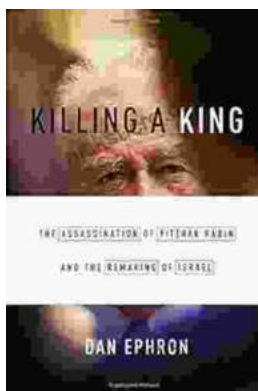
Salerno's story is a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked power and the corrosive effects of corruption. It is a reminder that even the most powerful individuals are not above the law and that justice, though sometimes delayed, will eventually prevail.



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