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***COMPARING ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE 1920’S & TODAY***

DIRECTIONS: Read the articles *Organized Crime in the 1920’s and Prohibition* and *Mafia Is Down- but Not Out* and answer or respond to the following questions and statements. You may need a separate sheet of paper.

***Organized Crime in the 1920’s and Prohibition:***

1. What was happening with the economy in the 1920’s?
2. Why do you believe criminals of the 1920’s era were considered heroes? Be specific.
3. What did organized crime supply to society in the 1920’s and why did they supply it?
4. How was alcohol viewed in the 1920’s?
5. How was alcohol hidden during the 1920’s?
6. What happened to police resources during the 1920’s?
7. How did banning alcohol contribute to a bad economy?
8. What was the quality of the alcohol during prohibition?
9. How long was prohibition the law in the US?
10. *CRITICAL THINKING:* How does the author link prohibition to the increase in the strength of organized crime? What specific examples does the author provide? Do you agree or disagree with this point of view? Support your answer.

***Mafia is Down- but Not Out***

1. What has happened over the past couple of decades that have led to a weakening of organized crime families in New York City?
2. How have modern crime families survived in today’s world?
3. Based on your reading of the article what do you believe *La Cosa Nostra* is? Use evidence from the article to support your interpretation and definition of the term.
4. What was the Lufthansa heist? What does it indicate?
5. Who are the “5 Families” in New York City?
6. Why aren’t the 5 families the federal government’s top criminal concern in New York City?
7. What has been a big change in the mafia from the 1980’s to today in regard to adapting to new law enforcement techniques?
8. How are today’s families different than in the past?
9. What new technique do the modern mafia families use that mirror terror cells?
10. What are the primary crimes of the five families? What are some of the newer crimes then families have adopted because of technology?
11. What is Omerta?
12. What is one trend law-enforcement officials say has worked in their favor in recent times?
13. What did Joseph Massino do that shocked the underworld?
14. *CRITICAL THINKING:* What are at least 3 differences in the mafia families from the past and today? Do you believe these differences will ultimately help or hurt the mafia families? Be specific about why you feel this way.
15. *CRITICAL THINKING:* When you think about the mafia and organized crime do you envision the “gangsters” of the 1920’s or the modern mafia of the current movies and television shows? Do you believe the depictions of mafia and gangsters is accurate in the movies or is it inaccurate? Be specific about why you feel that way using examples to support your point of view.