

Mafia Wars:
The Heist of the Century
A Dual Cabinet Crisis Committee
The 'Ndrangheta vs The Solntsevskaya Bratva



“Behind every great fortune lies a great crime.”
- Honoré de Balzac

Committee Overview

In the shadowy world of Mafias and Crime Cartels, fortunes are built not in boardrooms but in backrooms, alleyways, and underground vaults.

The year is 2027. Intelligence is circulating through the criminal underworld and a once in a lifetime opportunity has been presented- a shipment of rare diamonds worth over 1 billion dollars is scheduled to arrive in one of Europe's infamous Antwerp Diamond District, the global centre of the diamond trade and one of the most heavily protected financial hubs in the world. And for every criminal organization, this is a chance to once again, successfully execute the 'heist of the century' ... this time, hopefully without getting caught afterwards.

Two powerful criminal organizations have given some special attention to this information- the Italian 'Ndrangheta & the Russian Solntsevskaia Bratva.

Both organizations intend to steal the diamonds.

Both will do whatever they can to stop the other.

But only one will escape with the prize.

The delegates will take on the roles of powerful crime bosses, heist specialists, and genius operators within these organizations. Their goal is to plan and execute the greatest diamond heist in modern history while simultaneously preventing their rival organization from succeeding. However, in the world of organized crime, loyalty is rarely absolute. Personal ambitions, rivalries, and hidden agendas may shape the course of events.

Trust carefully.

In this game of deception and ambition, the greatest threat may come from within.

Historical Background: The Antwerp Diamond District

The target of this committee's heist lies in the heart of the Antwerp Diamond District, located in the city of Antwerp, Belgium. For centuries, Antwerp has served as one of the most important centres of the global diamond trade. Roughly 80% of the world's rough diamonds pass through Antwerp before being cut, traded, or sold on international markets.

The district is concentrated in only a few square blocks near the city's central railway station and contains hundreds of diamond dealers, exchanges, vaults, and trading offices. It is estimated that the district facilitates tens of billions of dollars in diamond transactions every year, making it one of the most valuable commercial zones in the world.

Because of the immense concentration of wealth, security within the district is exceptionally sophisticated. Diamond vaults and trading facilities are typically protected by multiple layers of security including:

- 24-hour armed guards
- Extensive CCTV surveillance networks

- Biometric vault access
- Infrared motion detectors
- Seismic sensors capable of detecting drilling
- Time-locked vault doors
- Magnetic and electronic locking systems

Despite these precautions, Antwerp has long attracted the attention of criminal organizations seeking to exploit vulnerabilities in its security infrastructure.

One of the most famous incidents occurred during the Antwerp Diamond Heist, when a group of thieves successfully broke into the underground vault of the Antwerp Diamond Centre and stole more than 100 million dollars' worth of diamonds, gold, and jewellery. The vault was located two floors underground and protected by advanced security systems including infrared sensors, magnetic locks, and a vault door with millions of possible lock combinations.

Yet through careful planning, insider access, and detailed knowledge of the facility, the thieves were able to bypass the entire security system.

The heist demonstrated that even the most secure vaults in the world can be compromised by a combination of patience, intelligence, and insider information.

Hence, this was dubbed “the heist of the century”, even though many of these thieves were caught afterwards...

Today the Antwerp Diamond District remains one of the most secure and most tempting targets in the global diamond trade.

For the world's most powerful criminal organizations, the opportunity to steal diamonds from Antwerp represents the ultimate prize.

Cabinet Description: The 'Ndrangheta

History

The 'Ndrangheta is widely regarded as one of the most powerful and influential organized crime groups in the world. Originating in the southern Italian region of Calabria, the organization developed during the nineteenth century as a loose network of criminal families that controlled rural territories and local economic activity.

Over the past century, the 'Ndrangheta has evolved into a highly sophisticated transnational criminal organization. Unlike many other mafia groups, its structure is built almost entirely around family bloodlines. Individual clans, known as *'ndrine*, form the foundation of the organization.

This family-based system creates extremely strong internal loyalty and makes infiltration by law enforcement extremely difficult.

Organizational Structure

The 'Ndrangheta operates through a decentralized network of dozens of clans, each controlling specific territories or operations. While these clans maintain a degree of independence, they cooperate through a hierarchical structure that allows senior figures to coordinate activities and mediate disputes.

Leadership positions are often passed down through family connections, reinforcing loyalty and long-term stability within the organization.

Criminal Operations

Over time the 'Ndrangheta expanded far beyond southern Italy and established operations across Europe, North America, and Australia.

Major criminal activities associated with the organization include:

- International drug trafficking networks
- Money laundering and financial fraud
- Smuggling and logistics operations
- Illegal arms trafficking
- Infiltration of legitimate businesses
- Corruption of political and economic institutions

Many law enforcement agencies consider the 'Ndrangheta to be one of the dominant organizations in the European cocaine trade due to its relationships with Latin American drug cartels.

Resources and Capabilities

Through its global operations, the 'Ndrangheta has accumulated immense financial resources and logistical capabilities. These include:

- International smuggling routes
- Connections within political and financial institutions
- Experienced criminal specialists
- Established supply chains for illegal goods
- And quite a lot of money

The members of this cabinet represent elite figures within the organization — strategists, financiers, and trusted operatives capable of planning and executing a complex international heist.

However, despite their shared loyalty to the organization, internal rivalries between clans and personal ambitions remain constant sources of tension.

In the criminal world, loyalty is rarely absolute.

Cabinet Description: The Solntsevskaya Bratva

The Solntsevskaya Bratva is widely considered one of the largest and most powerful criminal organizations to emerge from the post-Soviet underworld.

The organization originated in the Solntsevo District of Moscow during the late Soviet period. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, widespread economic instability and weak government institutions created ideal conditions for organized crime groups to expand their influence.

During this period, the Solntsevskaya Bratva rapidly developed into one of the most powerful criminal syndicates operating in Russia and beyond.

Organizational Structure

Unlike the family-based structure of the Italian mafia, Russian criminal organizations often operate through networks of alliances between powerful individuals rather than strict hereditary hierarchies.

The Solntsevskaya organization consists of multiple semi-independent factions led by influential figures who coordinate major operations and maintain international connections.

This structure allows the organization to operate flexibly across different regions and industries.

Criminal Operations

Over the decades, the Bratva has been associated with a wide range of criminal enterprises, including:

- International money laundering operations
- Arms trafficking and black-market weapons sales
- Cybercrime and financial fraud
- Protection rackets and extortion
- Human trafficking and smuggling networks

Through these operations, the organization has developed connections with criminal groups across Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

Resources and Capabilities

The Solntsevskaya Bratva's global reach provides access to numerous resources including:

- International financial laundering networks
- Cybercrime specialists capable of hacking security systems
- Access to black-market weapons suppliers
- Experienced mercenaries and enforcers
- Contacts within political and law enforcement institutions
- They also have money

Members of this cabinet represent some of the organization's most capable figures — strategists, financiers, and specialists capable of executing high-risk criminal operations.

However, within the Bratva hierarchy, competition for power and prestige is constant.

In the Russian underworld, strength and influence must be maintained through both loyalty and fear.

Character Matrix

The 'Ndrangheta Cabinet

Character	Description
Domenico Oppedisano	Recognized as a senior leader within the 'Ndrangheta and once considered the organization's symbolic head, Oppedisano is known for mediating disputes between clans and maintaining internal stability. A careful strategist who values unity above chaos.
Giuseppe Pelle	A powerful Calabrian clan leader with deep influence inside the organization. Ambitious and respected, Pelle has long sought to expand his power within the mafia hierarchy.
Marco Bellini (Fictional)	Master Safecracker A technical genius capable of opening even the most sophisticated vaults — but fiercely independent.
Sofia Caruso (Fictional)	Financial Laundering Specialist Controls vast offshore financial networks and knows how to make stolen wealth disappear.
Luca Romano (Fictional)	Smuggling Coordinator Responsible for moving contraband across European borders.

Gianni Rizzo (Fictional)	Political Fixer Maintains connections with corrupt politicians and bureaucrats.
Antonio Greco (Fictional)	Explosives Expert Brilliant but reckless demolitions specialist.
Elena Vitale (Fictional)	Professional Art Thief Elegant and highly intelligent thief specializing in high-security thefts.
Paolo Ricci (Fictional)	Information Broker Trades in secrets, intelligence, and leverage.
Matteo DeLuca (Fictional)	Getaway Specialist Expert driver and escape planner.

Solntsevskaya Bratva Cabinet

Character	Description
Sergei Mikhailov	Founder of the Solntsevskaya Bratva and one of the most influential figures in the Russian criminal underworld.
Vyacheslav Ivankov	A legendary mob boss known for his ruthless enforcement and international criminal connections.
Viktor Petrov (Fictional)	Arms Dealer Controls weapons supply networks across Eastern Europe.
Natalia Orlova (Fictional)	Cybersecurity Hacker Responsible for infiltrating digital security systems.
Ivan Dragunov (Fictional)	Explosives Specialist Prefers brute force solutions to complicated problems.
Alexei Morozov (Fictional)	Tunnel Engineer Expert in underground construction and infiltration.
Dmitri Sokolov (Fictional)	Corrupt Police Liaison Maintains contacts inside European law enforcement.

Olga Volkov (Fictional)	Financial Strategist Controls offshore laundering operations.
Mikhail Antonov (Fictional)	Intelligence Broker Trades information throughout the criminal underworld.
Roman Belov (Fictional)	Professional Assassin Silent and highly efficient operative.

Questions to Consider

1. What intelligence must be gathered before attempting the heist?
2. How can your organization bypass the security systems protecting the Antwerp vault?
3. How will you prevent the rival organization from stealing the diamonds first?
4. What resources and personnel will be required to successfully execute the operation?
5. What is your plan for escaping Antwerp once the diamonds are secured?

Suggested Research Resources

Delegates are encouraged to explore the following resources to better understand the organizations and historical events referenced in this committee.

Britannica- The 'Ndrangheta

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ndrangheta>

Wikipedia- Solntsevskaia Bratva

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solntsevskaia_Bratva

Wikipedia- Antwerp Diamond Heist

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antwerp_diamond_heist

History Channel- Famous Diamond Heists

<https://www.history.com/articles/biggest-jewel-diamond-heists>

Antwerp World Diamond Centre

<https://www.awdc.be>