

## “La dignità tradita.

### Uno studio psico-sociale sul crimine dei colletti bianchi”

di S. Giunta, G. Mannino, G. Lo Verso

Milano: Franco Angeli Editore, 2017

There is a space where black and white blur together, where the individuals move in a hybrid zone, where the borderline between lawful and illicit is worn-out: it is called grey zone, but its main actors hide behind the white collar of a shirt.

This subjects, called “White collars” are the representatives of a rotten middle class, they are those who make the mafia phenomenon take new shapes, establishing a dialogue with the crime organizations themselves based on a subtle relationship of symbiosis, tacit agreements and exchanged favors that help the extensive rise to power of Cosa Nostra.

This subjects, involved in silent collusion, and concealed by institutional roles of political-economical nature, nourish a process that nowadays is difficult to halt, and owes its triumph to social causes, to the collapse of its rules and to the darkening of moral values.

The so-called grey zone is therefore the meta-place where the two types of criminalities meet and cooperate in order to obtain the advantageous working of Cosa Nostra and economical and political advantages for those who, while hidden in the shadows, help and support that machine. This is the scenery described by the authors Serena Giunta, Giuseppe Mannino and Girolamo Lo Verso: a landscape where Mafia and White Collars have established a mutual relationship of exchange; “without them the Mafia would lack a fundamental block in the connection with economy, administrations and politics”.

In the pages of the manuscript it is strongly described how the contraposition between lawful/illicit isn't sufficient anymore in illustrating the complexity of the phenomenon,

since the “White Collars” often work at the limits of legality, making their expertise available and making, therefore, difficult to draw the border between what is white and what is black.

The criminal activity infiltrates this way in non-traditional areas, achieving a “welding” that gives a clean image to an illicit activity: the respectable facade of a well-educated and competent professional further complicates to unmask and trace the wires of the web of illegality that is now thin and intricate. This, dangerous, contiguity between borders and convergence of interests made it possible for both of them to take root in the territory and to establish itself as a “destructive social phenomenon”.

In this perspective, it is evident the necessity to consider the phenomenon from a psychological point of view, a challenge that has been accepted by the authors, that have been researching the Mafia phenomenon for many years.

Thanks to their work, they showed the reality of White Collars, not only describing its peculiarity, but also its inherent psychological aspects, focusing on its complexity and on the damage the phenomenon causes on the democratic life.

The work is, therefore, characterized not only for its knowledge and rigorous scientific input, but also because it is proposed as a contribution to the development of the conscience.

*A review by  
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