



The Corporation: An Epic Story of the Cuban American Underworld

T.J. English

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“A mob saga that has it all—brotherhood and betrayal, swaggering power and glittering success, and a Godfather whose reach seems utterly unrivaled. What a relentless, irresistible read.”

— **Don Winslow**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Force*

A fascinating, cinematic, multigenerational history of the Cuban mob in the US from "America's top chronicler of organized crime"* and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Havana Nocturne*.

By the mid 1980s, the criminal underworld in the United States had become an ethnic polyglot; one of the most powerful illicit organizations was none other than the Cuban mob. Known on both sides of the law as "the Corporation," the Cuban mob's power stemmed from a criminal culture embedded in south Florida's exile community—those who had been chased from the island by Castro's revolution and planned to overthrow the Marxist dictator and reclaim their nation.

An epic story of gangsters, drugs, violence, sex, and murder rooted in the streets, *The Corporation* reveals how an entire generation of political exiles, refugees, racketeers, corrupt cops, hitmen, and their wives and girlfriends became caught up in an American saga of desperation and empire building. T. J. English interweaves the voices of insiders speaking openly for the first time with a trove of investigative material he has gathered over many decades to tell the story of this successful criminal enterprise, setting it against the larger backdrop of revolution, exile, and ethnicity that makes it one of the great American gangster stories that has been overlooked—until now.

Drawing on the detailed reporting and impressive volume of evidence that drive his bestselling works, English offers a riveting, in-depth look at this powerful and sordid crime organization and its hold in the US.

The Corporation: An Epic Story of the Cuban American Underworld Details

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From Reader Review The Corporation: An Epic Story of the Cuban American Underworld for online ebook

Robin says

Fascinating look into the Cuban Mob and how the US involvement in overturning Castro led to it forming.

F Thomas Andino says

Crime and History Crushes Egos and Fortunes

There is nothing better than a great crime story especially if it's from a history that few of us know about.

I grew in NJ and it certainly related to many of the things I saw as a young adult but did not fully understand until this book.

Well researched and organized and a book you don't want to put down. I need to find out what else this author wrote for my next read.

Paul Basile says

The best book I have read this year.

Betty says

A most interesting book covering the Cuban crisis and following many of these men to the States and the forming of Cuban mafia. A real eye opener - especially if you are living in a quiet, sleepy town in Idaho.

Jose says

The Corporation by TJ English once again proves anyone can be a writer in this modern day digital age and where sources are an illegitimate and murderous Regime like the Castros and The Cuban Military, we have so many "experts" such as Julia Sweig, Peter Kornbluh, Louise Bardach and Louis Perez and of course that Spy Marifeli Perez-Stable on Cuba, Exiles, The diaspora and of course "Evil" Immoral Pre-Castro Cuba. Yet is it not immoral to send 15 year old kids to the firing squad during the revolution whose only crime was to oppose the real mafia which is the Castros and the enablers of said regime. Most of these so-called Books are ad-verbatim(read vomit re-spewed) that claim to be comprehensive or tell-all we have heard and read it before. It's just to sell books, every ethnic group has its malcontents but authors like these exploit The ignorance of Non-Cuban hispanics and Of Course Anglo and Black sympathizers of the regime who want to

only talk about the bad of our heritage and not the contributions made. "T.J." Claims to be a authority on Organized crime but he's just another copy and paste author in a age where anybody is an expert and anyone is a writer. Yes The Corporation Ran numbers rackets, but Big Government, Leftists and dishonesty is the biggest Racket of them all. I can't wait for English' next book probably again Bashing Cubans and Cuban-Americans while parroting the old Cuban Mafia Mythos, after all Castroism worked well for Most of Latin America?

Lukas Holmes says

I won this in a Goodreads giveaway and could not have been more excited. I started reading English after The Westies and he's just so good. Nothing changes here (though I have to admit to not understanding the history of Cuba as well as I do New York and the Irish mob) but don't worry, he gives it all to you. Another stellar work.

Angela says

A must read for first generation Cuban-Americans

It is important to know what our people have contributed to the American society good and bad. This well written, informative, and factual book is a must read.

Andrew Tollemache says

TJ English has once again added another great volume to his ongoing series of books on ethnic organized crime in America with "The Corporation". Having already done 2 books on Irish mobsters, The Mob in Cuba and Vietnamese mafia, English has written a lengthy tale of the Cuban Mafia. Centered around a clique of former Bay of Pigs veterans who once released from Castro's gaols came to the US to run their own version of the "Numbers Racket" in the NY/NJ and Miami area. Centered around one Jose Miguel Battle, a one time Havana cop turned CIA sponsored anti-Castro mercenary, the Cuban mafia would morph into the Corporation whose bread and butter was Bolita a Cuban borne version of the Numbers racket. With initial permission, but often heated conflict with the NY Italian Mob, the Corporation used this inner city illegal lottery to create a multi-million behemoth that its peak in the 70s generated \$45M a year in profits. While not as glamorous as other mob enterprises the money itself was enough to trigger a string of internecine fights and killings amongst those involved that spanned decades up and down the East Coast. Making matters worse since many of those involved had been trained by the CIA in their Brigade 2506 days, they had a flair and love of bombs. In the mid 1970s car bomb hits in Union City/Hudson County NJ were de rigueur.

Battle would eventually become known in the Cuban emigre community as El Padrino and seemed to even start emulating Brando's character in The Godfather down to the raspy voice honed by almost continuous viewings of the Coppola trilogy.

Like all such tales it all eventually imploded in a swirl of excessive murder & mayhem, blood feuds and of course tax evasion/money laundering prosecutions.

Pat says

I received a free copy of "The Corporation: An Epic Story of the Cuban American Underworld" by T. J. English, through the "Good Reads First Reads Giveaway."

This is a lucid and detailed look at the Cuban American Criminal World. This book is both well researched and well written, given the reader historic information about heroes becoming criminals. Although, the book reads like a series of short novels, it seems to represent true history. "The Corporation" had to involve tremendous research and organization by the author.

A TV series based on the events documented here, would give the "Sopranos" a run for their money.

Michael Halloun says

Great deep dive in roots of Miami underworld

T.J. English's masterful writing makes this historical account an easy read. Highly recommended for anyone interested in organized crime history or just great story telling. English brings the Battles to life and never loses sight of the battle between greed and pride that led to the creation and ultimate downfall of the Corporation.

Amanda (Books, Life and Everything Nice) says

I received this book for free through Goodreads Giveaways. As always, an honest review.

The Corporation is exactly what it sounds like; a story of the Cuban American underworld complete with crime, murder, deception, illegal gambling, and much more. Except to me the story wasn't epic like the title claims. I learned a lot from the book, which I had hoped since it's over 500 pages! Some parts were interesting, but a lot of it was very fact heavy, filled with overwhelming amounts of information. Because of this I could only read 20 to 30 pages at a time, so it took a long while to finish the book.

I thought the content would be different. More of a historical and sociological look at the time and culture of these events/people. Instead it was the life and crime surrounding these mob families. If you're a fan of the criminal life and underworld, then sincerely this book will probably interest you way more than it did me.

I hate saying that I didn't like a book, but I found it to be just okay. There were good and problematic parts. One such aspect was that I didn't connect with the people and events, so I didn't get pulled into the stories of their lives. I could definitely have done without the color photos of crime scenes and dead bodies. It was a bit much, and I'm not the squeamish type.

Overall, The Corporation is not a bad book by any means. Don't let all of my critiques make you think it is. It's just one of those books that I could stop reading in the middle and not care if I finished it. However, if the

topics, events and people intrigue you, then know there is a lot of information in the book for you.

Michael Pancier says

If you like crime and mob histories this one is a good one. Don't agree with the author on some items where he tends to get his facts from Cuban government spokesmen; but his narrative of the criminal activity and the players is done very well.

Oliver says

meticulously researched, vivid details into events in Cubans' lives, disgusting what horrific things many will do for power and money, and at times long. Even still, English compiled over 40 years of the Bolita business in New York into 20 hours.

Alex says

I was predisposed to like this book - being Cuban-American, a crime writer particularly obsessed with the mob and a fan of TJ English's past Cuba book - the superb HAVANA NOCTURNE, so take this review with that in mind.

It wasn't surprising to learn, after reading the book, that the writing of it was spurred by Hollywood - the story of Jose Miguel Battle is as cinematic and dramatic as any mob movie, with flashes of The Godfather, Goodfellas and Scarface. English's research is comprehensive and well-paced, keeping the book's sprawling subject matter moving along at a good clip. English is an old hand at this, and is adept at introducing and reintroducing plot elements, making it feel smooth and painless when it most certainly isn't. Though the prose tends to lean toward the hyperactive and exaggerated, it fits - because the story you're reading is all about excess and larger-than-life personalities. An informative but also breezy read that will interest any fans of true crime or students of organized crime looking for something that spotlights other gangs that aren't the Mafia.

Jorge A Barriere-Mendez says

I was not able to get away from the non-stop reading of The Corporation by T J English. From the moment I found out about this book and the connection with my soon to be published novel, Papi's Lover, it became a must-read.

Having personally known Jose Miguel Battle and my involvement with the world of "La Bolita", it immediately sparked my interest in the book's content and legitimacy.

While there are many anecdotes still to be told and information on how "La Bolita" business operated, the research done by Jose Daniel Freixas (Jaydee), Tony Gonzalez and by T J English was excellent. The movie, which rights were acquired by Paramount Pictures is a fantastic project and one movie you wouldn't want to miss.

The book: An excellent read and masterwork by author TJ English. Congratulations to this amazing team.

