

Transnational Crime

A. Here are some definitions of words and phrases connected with transnational crime. Do you know them?

1. d _____ - buying and selling drugs illegally
2. c _____ - the crime of making imitation bank notes, coins, jewellery, perfume, footwear, clothing
3. m _____ - transferring illegal or stolen money into an ordinary bank account, usually by a complex process to avoid detection
4. f _____ - the crime of copying money, documents in order to deceive people
5. p _____ - the condition of being sexually interested in children: sexual activity with children
6. s _____ - offence of taking goods illegally in or out of a country, without paying any tax
7. c _____ - paying money or giving your favour to someone, usually an official, so that he does what you want
8. m _____ - a secret organisation of criminals that originates in Sicily

B. Put the paragraphs of the jumbled text "Transnational Crime" in correct order according to this plan:

1. Introduction
2. Examples of transnational crimes
3. Factors that facilitate transnational crime.
4. Development of the world gangs.
5. Situation in Russia.
6. What makes transnational crime so attractive.

C. Complete the following sentences, using the ideas from the text.

- Transnational crime involves several criminal activities, such as _____
- The factors that contribute to transnational crime are _____
- The most infamous organised crime groups are _____
- People think that they can go unpunished when _____
- The illegal drugs trade makes up 8 per cent of _____ and guarantees _____ everywhere.
- To tackle transnational crime effectively, it is necessary to _____
- _____ are becoming very important weapons in tracing criminals.

Transnational Crime

Teacher's notes

1. Ss discuss the following questions in groups.

- a) What facilitates cross-border crimes?
- b) What are the reasons that make transnational crime difficult to tackle?
- c) Are criminals better organised and equipped than police? In which ways?

2. Ss do Exercise A.

Key

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. drug trafficking | 5. paedophilia |
| 2. counterfeiting | 6. smuggling |
| 3. money laundering | 7. corruption |
| 4. forgery | 8. the mafia |

3. Ss work in pairs and do Exercise B. They are given the jumbled text (see below) and put the paragraphs in correct order. Then give them the complete text (below)

Key: 1D; 2C; 3F; 4E; 5A; 6G; 7B

4. Ss complete the sentences from the text (Exercise C)

Key

1. murder, paedophilia, drug trafficking, money laundering, tobacco smuggling, arms trafficking, credit card fraud, forgery, counterfeiting and people smuggling.
2. globalisation and political instability.
3. are the US Mafia, the Chinese Triads, the gangsters from the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union.
4. the law is inadequately enforced.
5. world trade, big profit
6. coordinate action between different states, involving police, customs and military authorities.
7. DNA profiling and fingerprinting

4. Story telling.

Topics: Tobacco smuggling, corruption, hijack, car theft

Time: 35 minutes

Ss work in groups of 4. Teacher gives each group a topic of a cross-border crime. They elect a secretary of the group who writes down the story. Student 1 begins the story of a cross-border crime beginning with the first sentence. Student 2 adds a sentence etc. Then the group writes a short incident report and presents it to the class.

Transnational Crime

Complete text for students

"As crime becomes increasingly international, police forces around the globe are working together to stem a rising tide of murder, paedophilia, drug trafficking and money laundering" (BBC correspondents Jonathan Marcus and Stephen Eke).

In addition to the crimes mentioned above, transnational crime also embraces a variety of activities, such as tobacco smuggling, arms trafficking, credit card fraud, forgery, counterfeiting and people smuggling.

Experts believe that the rise of transnational crime has been facilitated by two sets of factors. Firstly, globalisation. Freer border controls, the internet, e-mail etc provide new opportunities for criminals. Secondly, economic and technological change go hand-in-hand with political instability. The end of the cold war increased cross-border movements, old systems collapsed and new governments struggled with immature legal systems. As a result, transnational crime is fast becoming a key factor threatening both the economic integrity and political stability of a number of strategically significant states and regions.

Although the world has long known of the US Mafia and the Chinese Triads, the gangsters of the former Yugoslavia and former Soviet Union have only become globally infamous in the last decade or so. There has been a huge explosion in crime because the gangsters have mutated into global players.

The collapse of the Soviet Union has caused the spread of the Russian diaspora to Israel, the USA and elsewhere, which has increased the Russian Mafia's sphere of activities. The situation is really particularly threatening in Russia because of the close relationship of state structures with organised crime. Official corruption reflects only part of the situation. When the law is inadequately enforced, people feel that they can go unpunished. Russia isn't an anomaly. Territory borders have come to represent challenges rather than permanent barriers to the international gangsters.

The global narcotics industry makes enough money and employs enough people to whet the appetite of the most industrialist or management consultant. It is an industry that does not advertise and guarantees a big profit everywhere. Illegal drugs make up 8 per cent of world trade, which is worth more than the combined global market for textiles, clothing, iron and steel.

Transnational crime is clearly a difficult phenomenon to pin down, but a solution may be found in a successful union of strategic intelligence and a joined-up approach to law and policing. It often requires co-ordinated action between government departments of different states, involving police, customs and even military authorities. Interpol keeps a database of the world's most wanted criminals, physical evidence is becoming increasingly important with DNA profiles and fingerprinting as principal weapons in tracing criminals. Specialist-led crime teams are operating in Europe with the aim of tackling drug trafficking and organised crime. Intelligence from these teams has helped officers to investigate paedophilia, pornography, firearms and drug offences.

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Cut up text and give to students

A) The collapse of the Soviet Union has caused the spread of the Russian diaspora to Israel, the USA and elsewhere, which has increased the Russian Mafia's sphere of activities. The situation is really particularly threatening in Russia because of the close relationship of state structures with organised crime. Official corruption reflects only part of the situation. When the law is inadequately enforced, people feel that they can go unpunished. Russia isn't an anomaly. Territory borders have come to represent challenges rather than permanent barriers to the international gangsters.

B) Transnational crime is clearly a difficult phenomenon to pin down, but a solution may be found in a successful union of strategic intelligence and a joined-up approach to law and policing. It often requires co-ordinated action between government departments of different states, involving police, customs and even military authorities. Interpol keeps a database of the world's most wanted criminals, physical evidence is becoming increasingly important with DNA profiles and fingerprinting as principal weapons in tracing criminals. Specialist-led crime teams are operating in Europe with the aim of tackling drug trafficking and organised crime. Intelligence from these teams has helped officers to investigate paedophilia, pornography, firearms and drug offences.

C) In addition to the crimes mentioned above, transnational crime also embraces a variety of activities, such as tobacco smuggling, arms trafficking, credit card fraud, forgery, counterfeiting and people smuggling.

D) As crime becomes increasingly international, police forces around the globe are working together to stem a rising tide of murder, paedophilia, drug trafficking and money laundering" (BBC correspondents Jonathan Marcus and Stephen Eke).

E) Although the world has long known of the US Mafia and the Chinese Triads, the gangsters of the former Yugoslavia and former Soviet Union have only become globally infamous in the last decade or so. There has been a huge explosion in crime because the gangsters have mutated into global players.

F) Experts believe that the rise of transnational crime has been facilitated by two sets of factors. Firstly, globalisation. Freer border controls, the internet, e-mail etc provide new opportunities for criminals. Secondly, economic and technological change go hand-in-hand with political instability. The end of the cold war increased cross-border movements, old systems collapsed and new governments struggled with immature legal systems. As a result, transnational crime is fast becoming a key factor threatening both the economic integrity and political stability of a number of strategically significant states and regions.

G) The global narcotics industry makes enough money and employs enough people to whet the appetite of the most industrialist or management consultant. It is an industry that does not advertise and guarantees a big profit everywhere. Illegal drugs make up 8 per cent of world trade, which is worth more than the combined global market for textiles, clothing, iron and steel.