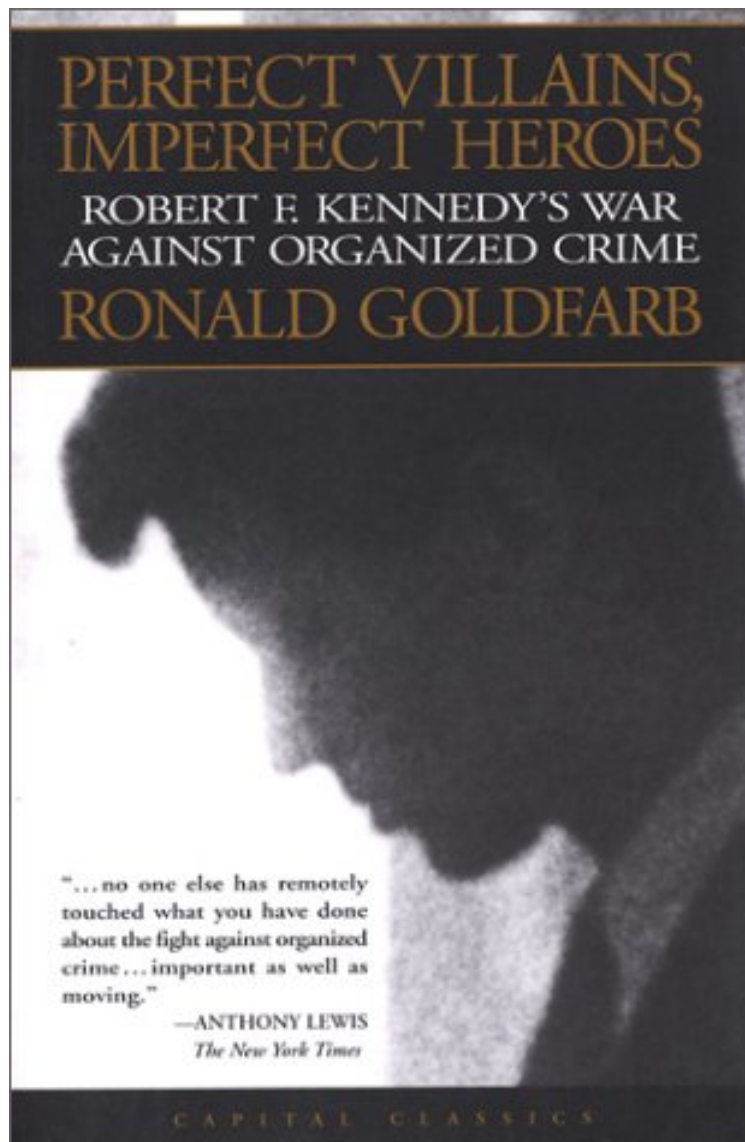


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Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes: Robert F. Kennedy's War Against Organized Crime (Capital Classics)

Ronald Goldfarb

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Ronald Goldfarb : Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes: Robert F. Kennedy's War Against Organized Crime (Capital Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes: Robert F. Kennedy's War Against Organized Crime (Capital Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The rebirth of Newport Kentucky with help from Bobby Kennedy and Ronald Goldfarb
By Gary Howard
One of the cities Bobby Kennedy went after to clean it up was Newport Kentucky. So Kennedy sent Ronald Goldfarb a justice attorney to Newport Ky (Newport is across the river from Cincinnati Ohio). At the time I was a police officer in Newport, Ky and really appreciated the help. In the process, the Police Chief and Chief of detectives were fired and several people including one well known attorney was sent to prison. This was a great time in my life to see the mob run out of our city
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Terrific Book on Robert Kennedy's Legacy
By J. Alberts
This book was recommended to me by a friend as a "must read" for anyone interested in the Kennedys. My taste in books runs to nonfiction, so this was a book that should be made for me. After reading it, I can recommend this to anyone who wants to have a book that's hard to put down. This book takes the reader through what Robert Kennedy did against organized crime while he was Attorney General. A great read!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FASCINATING
By indiefilmreviewz
and incredibly well written. very gripping portrait of a fascinating time in American history and in the history of the battle against "big crime".

When the newly elected president John F. Kennedy appointed his younger brother attorney general, there was a firestorm of criticism. Not only was the nepotism blatant, but Robert Kennedy had never tried a case in court and was considered ruthless, highly politicized and intemperate. Nevertheless, he went on to become one of the most active and effective attorneys general in American history. This book examines his four-year tenure and the concerted war on crime he launched during that time. Written by one of the bright young lawyers he recruited to work as part of the special racketeering prosecution team, *Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes* is an insider's view of one of the Kennedy administrations most exciting and largely untold stories. In this account of the historic battle between law breakers and law enforcers, Goldfarb shows that these cases had a profound impact on public consciousness that the mob's leaders, even if they did not directly cause the murder of John F. Kennedy, might well have been tried and convicted of conspiring to do so, since they had both the means and motive, took steps toward that end, and left an abundance of incriminating evidence.

From Publishers Weekly
In 1961, when Robert Kennedy became attorney general, Goldfarb (*The Contempt Power*), then a liberal young New York City lawyer, agreed reluctantly to serve in the Justice Department's Organized Crime and Racketeering section. Soon he was swept up in his boss's campaign against the rackets, the first time any administration had launched all-out war against the mob, the officials it corrupted and the unions it poisoned. While RFK's successful battle against Teamster chief Jimmy Hoffa was his most publicized case, the author shows that he instituted hundreds of other cases and inspired his subordinates with his combination of pragmatism and idealism and with the way he exercised power with confidence and empathy. In Goldfarb's estimation, RFK was a notable being. Arresting is the author's tendency to accept the thesis that the Mafia engineered the assassination of John Kennedy, who was doing deals with the syndicate to eliminate Castro even as his brother's Justice Department was aggressively attempting to prosecute the mob. This insider's view of RFK's campaign against organized crime shows us the workaday world of the Attorney General and his single-mindedness in combating "the roots of evil." Without romanticizing RFK, Goldfarb presents us with a genuine visionary. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
Goldfarb, a former Justice Department lawyer, provides an insightful account of Robert F. Kennedy's tenure as U.S. attorney general and his crusade against organized crime. While Goldfarb focuses on his own courtroom experiences, he also shows how Kennedy's open style of leadership inspired Justice Department staff to excel at their jobs. The department's overall effectiveness increased dramatically under Kennedy's direction. By bringing the fight against organized crime to Washington, indictments and convictions each rose from zero to over 600 in Kennedy's first two years on the job. Goldfarb and other department lawyers exposed corrupt public officials, union leaders like Jimmy Hoffa, illegal union activities, mob infiltration of Las Vegas, and much more. Often using obscure statutes to snag racketeers, Kennedy's team also drafted new laws with stiffer penalties. Judging by a number of factors outlined here, Goldfarb sees a connection between organized crime and the Kennedy assassinations. Although the detailed courtroom memoir will mainly interest lawyers, it fills a major gap in the history of the Kennedy era. Recommended for academic and large public libraries. ?Gary D. Barber, SUNY at Fredonia Lib.
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From Booklist
Goldfarb is the right author for this book: he was a young lawyer in the Justice Department's Organized Crime and Racketeering Section from 1961 to 1964; civil liberties work made him sensitive (then and now) to legitimate concerns about tools authorized for use against organized crime; and he has authored or coauthored eight nonfiction books. Goldfarb sketches Kennedy family relationships, the state of organized crime in the late 1950s, and RFK's pre-1960 career, then he vividly describes the team recruited to fight organized crime and dozens of investigations it juggled. (Cases Goldfarb himself handled, including two "rounds" in Newport, Kentucky, across the river from Cincinnati, draw more detailed attention.) After recapping his inside view of RFK's leadership and growth during the Justice Department years, Goldfarb assesses the theory that the Mafia killed JFK and several decades of revelations about the Kennedy brothers. Though both took foolhardy risks, which may have caused

JFK's assassination, he insists that their covert links to gangsters never obstructed RFK's assault on organized crime.
Mary Carroll