

## Sympathy for the Devil: State engagement with criminal organizations in furtherance of public policy

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## **Abstract:**

Governments have long relied on non-state actors to assist in the implementation of public policy. Legitimate elements of civil society have become familiar instruments of governance. States have also engaged criminal actors to this end. This article will note examples of state collaboration with criminal interests, from pirates turned privateers during the 17th and 18th centuries, to the patriotic hackers of today. It will discuss the strategic considerations giving rise to such engagements, the pitfalls that may beset them, and the ethical considerations that might inform the decision by a state to enlist the services of illicit organizations.

## Bio:

Peter Grabosky holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University, and has written extensively on criminal justice and public policy. His general interests are in computer crime, policing, and regulatory failure. Peter is interested specifically in how non-governmental institutions may be harnessed in furtherance of public policy. Peter is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology, He was the 2006 winner of the Sellin-Glueck Award of the American Society of Criminology for contributions to comparative and international criminology, and the 2011 recipient of the Prix Hermann Mannheim, awarded by the International Centre of Comparative Criminology at the University of Montreal. In 2012 the (US) National White Collar Crime Center and the White Collar Crime Research Consortium awarded him the Gilbert Geis Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding professional contributions in the area of white collar crime. He is a past president of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology, a founding member and former Vice President of the Asian Criminological Society.

Language: English

All are welcome!

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