

Al Capone,
Gangster, Bootlegger And A Killer



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Background Information

In his time, Al Capone was known for being one of the most notorious gangsters in the United States. He had ruled Chicago with an iron fist and was almost untouchable. He rose as Chicago's number one mobster and became the most feared gangster in the US. He was charismatic and at the same time he was brutal. People loved him and people feared him. All great leaders have a start and his began in Brooklyn. He was born January 17, 1899 with the name Alphonse Gabriel Capone. His parents Gabriele and Teresina Capone were immigrants from Italy. Al Capone's father was a hard-working man who did what he could to feed himself, his wife and his nine children. Al's life was not the easiest but he made due with what he had. When Al was 14 he was expelled from school after assaulting a teacher. On that day everything had changed.

Career/Education

It was Al Capone's goal to move up in society and become something more than just an everyday person. Capone found himself an opportunity to work with a local street gang. Capone had worked as an errand boy for Johnny Torrio, leader of Brooklyn's most notorious street gang. Capone was exactly what Torrio needed and he would prove to be an excellent mentor. After many years of following alongside Torrio, Capone receives an invitation which would change his life forever. Torrio tells Capone that there is a new opportunity in Chicago. In the 1920s Capone begins his journey to Chicago alongside Torrio. From that moment on Capone had become Torrio's right-hand man. Sometime later Capone and Torrio found themselves working for a new mob operated by Torio's uncle Diamond Jim Colosiom. The mob was notorious for the production of beers and liquors as well as distributing them. The mob had also run a few legitimate businesses including cleaning, clothes dyeing, labor unions, and employees' associations. Torrio and Capone set their goals on taking over the Colosiom mob.

Challenges

At this point Torrio had been promoted to lieutenant of operations for the mob. He was up there in rank but he wanted to be number one. Capone and Torrio knew that the only way to gain control was to eliminate the boss. Jim Colosiom was the only thing standing in Capone and Torrio's way. Colosiom was not aware of the potential profits that he could earn from his operation during the Prohibition era. For that reason he ignored all potential threats. Capone and Torrio ordered a hit on Colosiom and in May 1920 he was brutally murdered. In 1924 Torrio and Capone were hitting a major paystreak. Their rival, Dion O'Bannion, leader of the northside gang, decided to strike at Torrio and Capone. He announced the closure of his bootlegging industry as well as selling off his brewery. He sold the brewery to Torrio and Capone for \$500,000. Once the brewery was in the possession of Torrio and Capone, O'Bannion informed the police of the location of the brewery. The brewery was found and seized by the police. Torrio and Capone were beyond mad. Both knew something had to be done. O'Bannion found himself at gun point in a florist shop he used during his operations. O'Bannion was killed but Torrio was injured in the shootout. The following year Torrio was shot by O'Bannion's successor. Torrio lived but decided to retire. Torrio and Capone experienced their fair share of conflict.

Success

After Torrio retired he handed over control to his right-hand man, Al Capone. Years later Al Capone found a new partner named Jack McGurn. Capone had an issue with another mob operated by Bugs Moran on the north side of Chicago. Capone grew

to dislike Moran after an attempted assassination on Mcgurn. Mcgurn was a key component to Capone's empire. Moran had to be dealt with in such a way that northside would never cross paths with Capone ever again. Mcgurn and Capone arranged a assassination on Moran and his men. On Thursday, February 14, 1929 at around 10:30 AM the plan was put into effect. Moran's men met up at a distribution point but, little did they know they were being watched. Capone and Mcgurn had their men dressed as police officers. The idea was to send in the fake police officers who would raid the distribution centre. Afterwards, Moran's men would be gathered and dealt with. Capone and Mcgurn weren't stupid, they stayed as far away from the location as possible. Capone had been hiding safely in Florida on his private island. Mcgurn rented a hotel room with his girlfriend far away from the site. When Capone and Mcgurn's men spotted Moran entering the distribution centre that was the cue to attack. Capone and Mcgurn's men had also stolen a police car which they would use to arrive at the location to make it seem more convincing. When they got there they rounded up the men and told him to face the garage door of the building. All seven men were brutally killed. February 14 was forever remembered as the St Valentine's Day Massacre. Although Capone and Mcgurn failed to kill Moran they got the next best thing, power. This assassination struck fear into his enemies eyes. "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre became a national media event immortalizing Capone as the most ruthless, feared, smartest and elegant of gangland bosses. Even while powerful forces were amassing against him" (Bio.com).

Evaluation

Al Capone had been a negative influence on the people and businesses in Chicago. During the Prohibition era the only way to obtain liquor and beer was through illegal means. Al Capone had been the top distributor of illegal products. On top of supplying liquor and beer he also produced it. The illegal products were being mass-produced in secret locations around Chicago. Capone's thugs made the streets of Chicago unsafe, one wrong move and a gun is pulled on a person's head. Capone was a brutal killer as well as a businessman. People that weren't on the same page as him were put on his hit list. The people interviewed for this report had mixed emotions about Al Capone. Some figured he was positive, some thought he was negative. The results were pretty much tied but, the people probably didn't know a lot about who Al Capone was. Capone was clearly negatively affecting the people and the city of Chicago.

Conclusion

After finding evidence against Al Capone, the authorities finally had the ability to arrest him. Al Capone was apprehended by authorities and awaited a hearing in court. On October 17, 1931 the jury had found Al Capone guilty of multiple counts of tax evasion. He was sentenced 11 years in maximum-security prison with no bail as well as two hefty fines. The first was \$50,000 and the next was 30,000 in court costs. Capone was relocated from his prison in Atlanta to Alcatraz in San Francisco. His sentence was reduced to 6 1/2 years after being diagnosed with syphilis. All they asked of him was to be on his best behaviour. When he was released he immediately sought medical help. The last few years of his life were bleak. On January 25, 1947 Al Capone died of a stroke at the age of 48.

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Appendix I: Survey Questions

(1) Do you know who Al Capone is?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

(2) What is he famous for?

- Chef
- Police officer
- Gang leader
- Drug dealer

(3) Do you think Al Capone is a good leader to the people of Chicago during the prohibition times?

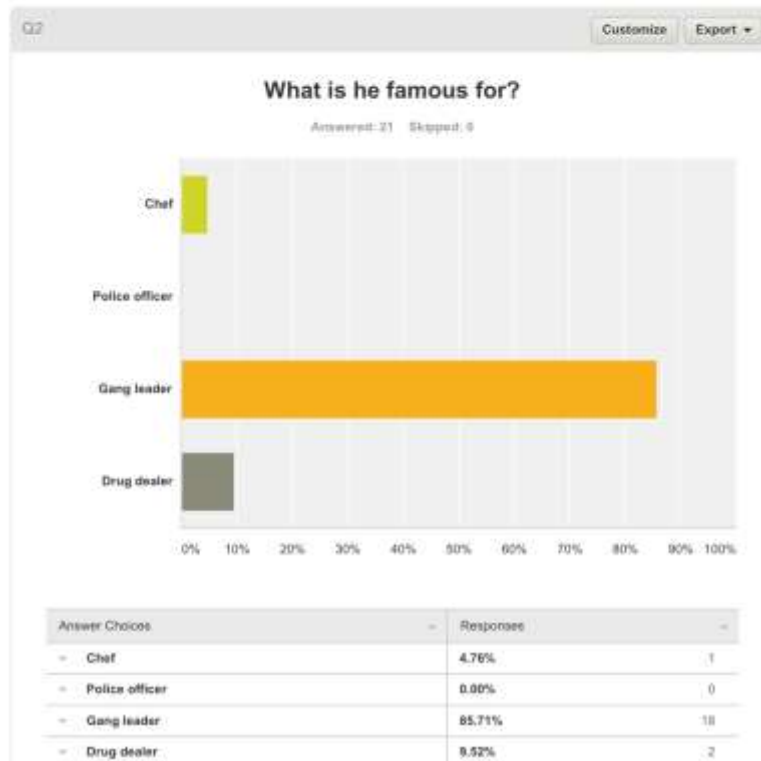
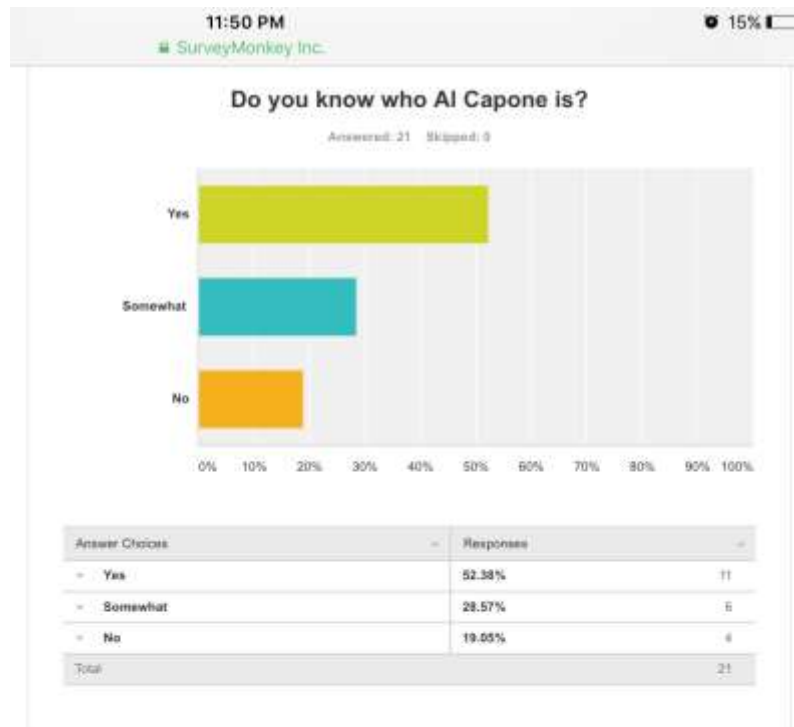
- No
- Somewhat
- Yes
- Not sure (why)

(4) Was Al Capone a positive or negative individual on people of Chicago during the Prohibition times?

- No
- Somewhat
- Yes
- Not sure (why)

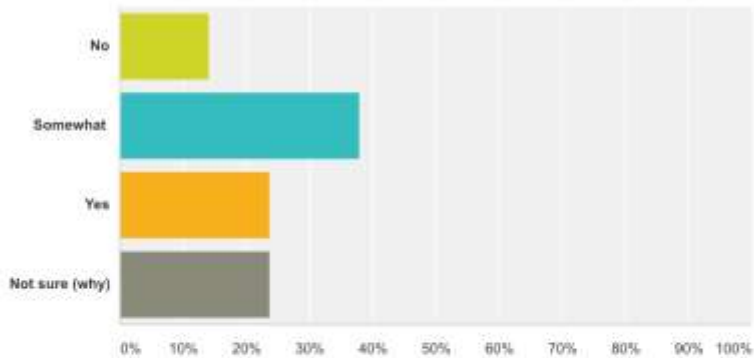
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QYRH77F>

Appendix II: Survey Results



Do you think Al Capone is a good leader to the people of Chicago during the prohibition times?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
No	14.29%	3
Somewhat	38.10%	8
Yes	23.81%	5
Not sure (why)	23.81%	5
Total		21

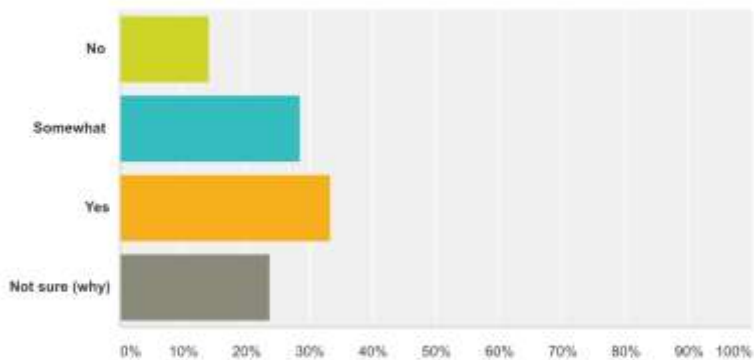
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Was Al Capone a positive or negative individual on people of Chicago during the Prohibition times?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
No	14.29%	3
Somewhat	28.57%	6
Yes	33.33%	7