

III. Regional Perspectives

1. INTRODUCTION

In an introductory first part of the book, we sought to establish some general understanding of the current features and cornerstones in the debate on transnational organized crime.

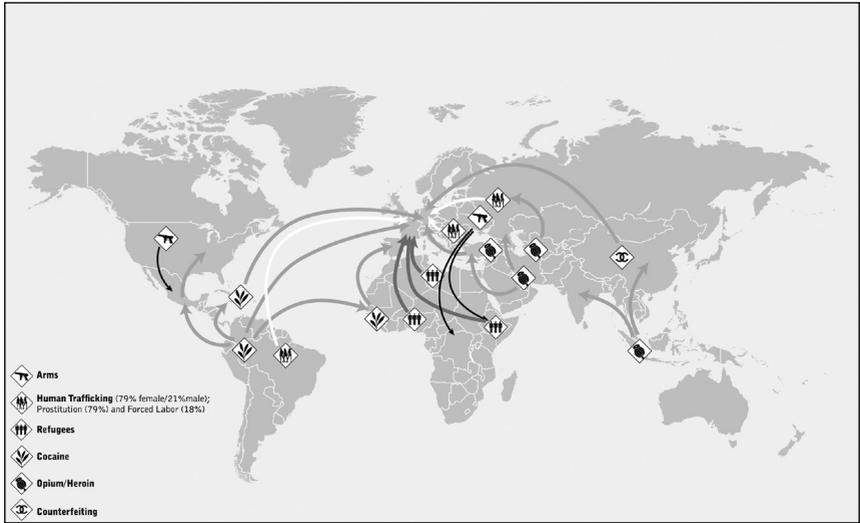
Money laundering, cybercrime, as well as possible forms and pathways toward containment of national and transnational organized crime were explained and discussed. Additionally, the fine line between legality and illegality of economic transactions was raised and discussed regarding compliance and business ethics.

Whereas, in this first part, some frame conditions that enable the current outreach of transnational organized crime were set, in the second part of the book we intend to travel around the world to stress the highly differentiated nature that organized crime may assume. Whether in Afghanistan, India, Mexico, Brazil, West Africa, the Balkans, or in countries of the European Union, historic and local specificities of societal organization lead to different features of organized crime. The following map visualizes roughly the current crime routes we are dealing with in this book and puts them in a global context.

Internationally crime networks, the state, and the locally dominant economic actors are closely interconnected. By considering the academic, practitioners', and civil society perspectives, organized crime is being situated in the center of other societal conflicts.

The question whether transnational organized crime is currently an intrinsic feature of a globalized economic life or an indicator of its collateral conflicts will be taken up again in the Outlook at the end of this book.

World Map of Organized Crime



Source: www.wired.com/magazine/2011/01/ff_orgchart_crime