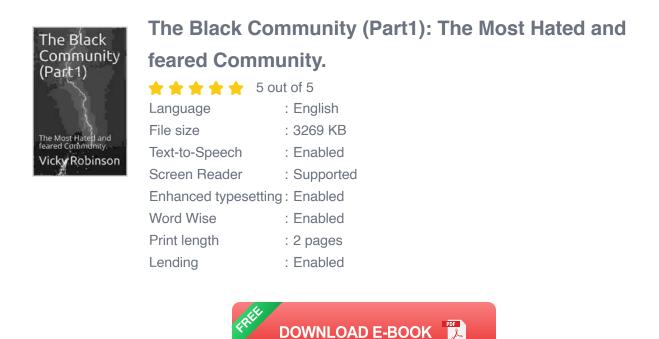
### The Black Community (Part1): The Most Hated And Feared Community

In the murky underworld of organized crime, there exists a clandestine organization that has instilled terror and fascination in equal measure: the Yakuza. Operating in the shadows of modern Japan, the Yakuza has become a symbol of both power and depravity, earning a reputation as one of the most feared and reviled communities in the world. Their intricate tattoos, elaborate rituals, and unwavering loyalty to their oyabun (bosses) have captivated the imagination of countless people, yet their true nature remains shrouded in mystery. This article delves into the enigmatic world of the Yakuza, exploring their history, structure, and the reasons behind their persistent hatred and fear.

#### **Origins and History**

The Yakuza's roots can be traced back to the Edo period (1603-1868),during which time they emerged as a loose collection of outcasts and social outcasts. These groups, known as tekiya and bakuto, engaged in gambling, extortion, and prostitution. By the late 19th century, they had coalesced into a more organized and hierarchical structure, with the emergence of oyabun and the establishment of strict codes of loyalty and honor.

Throughout the 20th century, the Yakuza expanded its influence and became a major player in Japan's illicit economy. They had a hand in smuggling, drug trafficking, and real estate speculation, amassing vast wealth in the process. Their presence became increasingly visible in major cities, where they established legitimate businesses as fronts for their criminal activities.



#### **Structure and Organization**

The Yakuza operates on a strict hierarchical structure known as oyabunkobun (father-child) system. At the helm is the kumicho, the overall leader of the organization. Below the kumicho are lieutenants, captains, and soldiers, each with their own responsibilities. Members are expected to show absolute loyalty to their superiors and are bound by a code of honor known as ninkyo.

The Yakuza are divided into several major clans, each with its own territory and areas of operation. The largest clans include the Yamaguchi-gumi, Sumiyoshi-kai, and Inagawa-kai. These clans are fiercely competitive and often engage in territorial disputes. Despite their rivalry, they have maintained a delicate balance of power over the decades.

#### **Tattoos and Rituals**

One of the most striking features of the Yakuza is their elaborate tattoos, which cover large portions of their bodies. These tattoos are intricate works of art, depicting scenes from Japanese folklore, mythical creatures, and traditional symbols. The process of tattooing is a lengthy and painful one, often taking several years to complete.

Beyond their tattoos, the Yakuza engage in a number of rituals and ceremonies. These include initiation ceremonies, where new members swear allegiance to their oyabun and receive their tattoos. The Yakuza also celebrate annual festivals, during which they parade through the streets in colorful costumes and perform traditional dances.

#### The Code of Honor (Ninkyo)

Central to the Yakuza's identity is their adherence to a code of honor known as ninkyo. This code emphasizes loyalty, courage, and a sense of obligation to one's oyabun and fellow members. Yakuza are expected to be fearless in the face of adversity and to defend the honor of their organization.

Ninkyo also dictates a certain level of decorum and respect. Yakuza members are taught to show politeness and deference to their superiors, as well as to avoid unnecessary violence. However, this code of honor does not prevent them from engaging in brutal acts of retribution against those who betray or harm their members.

#### **Criminal Activities**

The Yakuza is primarily engaged in illegal activities, including extortion, drug trafficking, prostitution, and gambling. They also have a strong

presence in the legitimate economy, with investments in real estate, construction, and entertainment.

Extortion is a major source of revenue for the Yakuza. They extort money from businesses, individuals, and even government officials, using threats of violence or other forms of coercion. Drug trafficking has also become a significant part of their operations, with the Yakuza controlling a sizeable portion of the illicit drug trade in Japan.

#### **Violence and Retribution**

The Yakuza are known for their violent tendencies and their willingness to use force to achieve their goals. They employ a variety of weapons, including knives, swords, and firearms. Severing fingers and toes is a common form of punishment for those who break the code of honor or disrespect their members.

Retribution is a key aspect of Yakuza culture. Any slight or insult to a member's honor must be avenged, no matter how long it takes. The Yakuza have a long memory for betrayals and are known to seek vengeance even years after the initial incident.

#### The Fear and Hatred They Instill

The Yakuza's violent reputation and their involvement in illegal activities have made them one of the most feared and hated communities in Japan. Many people are terrified of their power and the potential for violence. They are seen as a threat to public safety and a blight on society.

The Yakuza's involvement in legitimate businesses also generates distrust and resentment among ordinary citizens. They view the Yakuza as criminals who have infiltrated the legitimate economy and are exploiting it for their own gain.

#### **Government Crackdown**

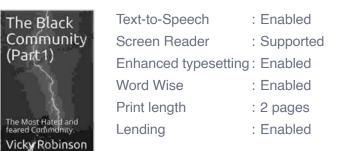
In recent years, the Japanese government has cracked down on organized crime, targeting the Yakuza in particular. The government has passed legislation that restricts their activities, increases penalties for their crimes, and confiscates their assets.

The police have also intensified their efforts to apprehend and prosecute Yakuza members. This has led to a decline in their numbers and their influence in some areas. However, the Yakuza remain a potent force in Japan's criminal underworld, and it is unlikely that they will be eradicated anytime soon.

The Yakuza are a complex and enigmatic organization that has instilled both fear and fascination in the hearts of many. Their intricate tattoos, elaborate rituals, and unwavering loyalty to their oyabun have made them a subject of both admiration and revulsion. Their history and their involvement in organized crime have earned them a reputation as one of the most hated and feared communities in the world. Despite government crackdowns and a declining membership, the Yakuza remain a persistent force in Japan's criminal landscape, and their legacy is likely to continue for many years to come.

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