

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS vii

CHRONOLOGY ix

INTRODUCTION xvii

1 THE BEGINNINGS

The Racetrack Gangs, the Mobs and the
Smash-and-Grabbers 1

2 THE MASTER CRAFTSMEN

Safe-breakers and Cat Burglars 19

3 KINGS OF THE UNDERWORLD

From Billy and Spot to the Pen Club 35

4 GANGLAND

The Krays and Untimely Ends 60

5 GANGLAND

The Richardsons, Mr Smith's and Beyond 92

6 GANGLAND

The Glasgow Teams 116

7 THE ROBBERS

From the Great Train Robbery to the Shoot-outs 135

8 THE SUPERGRASSES

Bertie, 'King Squealer' and the Rest 165

9 COSTA DEL CRIME

Spanish Knights and the 'Silent Man' 180

10 VICE

The Messinas, Tommy Smithson, Silver and Mifsud and Soho 194

11 GOOD EGGS AND BAD APPLES

Police Corruption and the Underworld 218

12 DRUGS

From the Brilliant Chang and Fabian to Howard Marks and 'Operation Wrecker' 239

13 BIG HITS

Bullion and Safe Deposits 275

14 THE FUTURE

From Hitmen to the Gangs of the World 289

BIBLIOGRAPHY 309

INDEX 315