A HISTORICAL NOTE ON THE HOLODOMOR

The Holodomor - death by starvation imposed on millions of Ukrainians during 1932-33 - was the centerpiece of the Soviet Union’s ruthless campaign against nationally conscious Ukrainians opposed to Stalinism. Besides decimating Ukraine’s political, intellectual, cultural, and religious leadership, Joseph Stalin’s communist regime deliberately starved Ukraine’s majority population, its farmers.

After deporting Ukraine’s most successful farming families, Stalin forced those remaining to surrender their property and join government-run farms. Given impossible grain quotas, the farmers resisted, and communist enforcers eventually stripped households of any food. Countless villages were blocked off from receiving any goods, internal passports were issued, and the borders of Ukraine were sealed, thereby dooming the rural population to a slow and tortuous death by starvation. Meanwhile, grain and other food products were exported to the outside world.

At the height of the famine in June 1933, 28,000 Ukrainians were dying each day.

The Soviet Union denied that a murderous famine had taken place and compelled its subject Ukrainians to live this lie. To speak of the famine was a crime. Most of the world learned of the Holodomor only after the USSR’s collapse in 1991.

Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term genocide and was the initiator of the United Nations Convention on Genocide, stated that the Soviet attack on Ukraine "is a case of genocide, of the destruction, not of individuals only, but of a culture and a nation." [This note is adapted with modifications from a 2015 Holodomor Memorial Dedication Committee text].

I. HOLODOMOR SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION

A. Start here:

Holodomor 1932-33: [http://holodomorct.org/](http://holodomorct.org/) Provides basic historical information along with a regularly updated guide to 200+ resources, including films, maps, collected survivor testimony, authentic photographs and teaching materials suitable for the secondary and college level - most with links to instant online access:  [http://holodomorct.org/holodomor-information-links/](http://holodomorct.org/holodomor-information-links/)


B. A few key Holodomor focused resources:


https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/24deff_09cae19509e44ebf82004129a25213d2.pdf


This final report includes the “Executive Summary,” which presents the “Findings” of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, among them the often quoted #16, which states: "**Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933.**" Several other valuable reports comprise this volume. http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951d00831044s;view=1up;seq=8


II. **SELECTED RESOURCES ON GENOCIDE WHICH INCLUDE A CHAPTER ON THE HOLODOMOR**

*Voices into Action.* Online program offering curriculum-based teaching resources and tools for teachers and students on issues related to prejudice, human rights, and social justice. Unit 2 offers lessons on genocide. By FAST: Fighting Anti-Semitism Together. 2014 -. https://www.voicesintoaction.ca/Learn/Unit2/Chapter5


