Educational Resources on the Holodomor in Genocide Studies

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:

*The Holodomor Research and Education Consortium* (HREC). Canadian based site with authoritative basic and research oriented information; authentic photo directory, survivor testimony. Very well developed classroom resources component available in *HREC-ED*, the Education division of HREC.

*Holodomor 1932-33: Holodomor Resource Library*. Basic historical information and guide to 200+ resources, including teaching materials for the secondary and college level, films, fiction,
photographs, maps, survivor testimony, primary sources and more - most with links to online access.


“*Holodomor: Resource Guide,*” prepared for the Univ. of Minnesota Holocaust and Genocide Studies program. [2020?]


*Holodomor Ukraine Genocide 1932-33*. Website of the US Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness.

B. A few key Holodomor focused resources:


Lemkin, Raphael. "*Soviet Genocide in the Ukraine.*" 1953.


United States. *Investigation of the Ukrainian Famine, 1932-1933 Report to Congress*. Washington: U.S. G.P.O., 1988. 7 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.


Survivor Accounts: broad selection in print and video available in the Holodomor Resource Library.

C. Classroom Gems


Genocide Revealed: Educational Release, directed by Yurij Luhovy, 2013. Buy 26 & 52 min. on one DVD.

Stalin’s Secret Genocide, by Andrea Chalupa for the Holodomor National Awareness Tour. 2017. 15 min. video.

More videos: Search videos at the Holodomor Resource Library

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 -.


Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. Ten Stages of Genocide Graphic Novels.


