

Why the Silence about the Holodomor

How could an atrocity of this magnitude have escaped the attention of much of the world for so many years?

- The Soviets sealed Ukraine's borders to stop anyone escaping in search of food and to prevent foreigners from witnessing the mass starvation, thus largely concealing this act of genocide from the world.
- To fool the outside world, Moscow created "Potemkin villages"—fake villages—to give invited foreign guests the impression that life in collective farms was beautiful.
- Despite the efforts of a few Western journalists who visited Ukraine illegally, notably the British foreign correspondent Malcolm Muggeridge and Welsh journalist Gareth Jones, reports about the genocide were largely ignored, or debunked by Moscow sympathizers in the West. The false reports of *New York Times* correspondent Walter Duranty, who was given a Pulitzer Prize for his articles written about the USSR, contributed to the silence and lies about the Holodomor.*



In 1932-33, the Ukrainian countryside became a vast death camp. Entire villages were depopulated, and mass graves covered the landscape. Nearly 25% of Ukraine's population perished during the Holodomor. (Photo by Winnerberger. Institute of Ukrainian History, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.)

*To cover up its attempted extermination of the Ukrainian population, the Soviet regime strictly controlled any travel into the areas hit by starvation. As a result, very few photos were taken, and even fewer have survived to this date.

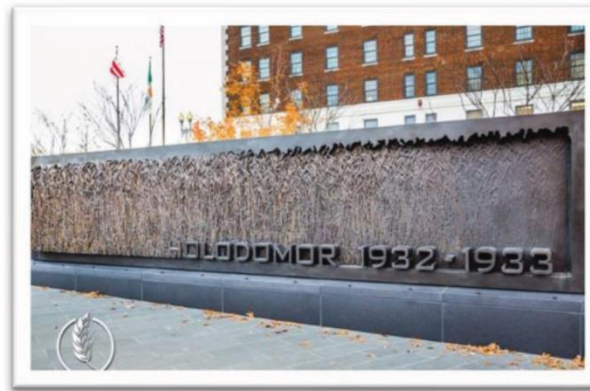
Promote the Truth

It is our duty as citizens of a free society to recognize, acknowledge, and promote the truth about atrocities against humanity wherever they occur.

By remembering the victims of the Holodomor and other genocides, we help to ensure that the horrors of the past are not repeated.

Therefore, please:

- Learn as much as you can about the Holodomor, share your knowledge with others, and pass this brochure to your friends and family so that they, too, can learn about the genocide in Ukraine.
- Encourage your local school districts, colleges, and universities to include the Holodomor in their genocide curriculum.



Holodomor Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill authorizing a Memorial to the victims of the Holodomor-Genocide on federal land in the District of Columbia, and the Senate did so in 2006. The bill was signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 13, 2006. The Memorial, designed by Ukrainian American architect Larysa Kurylas, was unveiled in Washington, D.C., not far from the U.S. Capitol, in 2015.



For more information about the Holodomor, visit www.ukrainegenocide.com



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REMEMBER THE MILLIONS

Genocide in Ukraine

1932–1933

Holodomor: Murder by Starvation

Less than twenty years after Ukraine was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union, the Communist regime of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin embarked on a campaign to break the resistance of the Ukrainian people. Its plan: engineer and brutally enforce a man-made famine, and starve Ukrainians into submission. The result: in the land called the Breadbasket of Europe, millions of men, women, and children starved to death.

This horrendous act of genocide against the Ukrainian people is known as the **Holodomor – murder by starvation.**

At its height in June 1933, the Ukrainian genocide claimed the lives of at least 28,000 people each day.



A starving girl in Kharkiv, then-capital of Ukraine, 1933. At least 3 million of the Holodomor victims were children. (Photo by Winnerberger. Institute of Ukrainian History, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.)

The Methodology of Murder

Stalin orchestrated the Holodomor on the heels of collectivization, a policy under which all privately owned land was expropriated and farmers were forced into collective farms. When Ukraine's fiercely independent farmers refused to relinquish their land, Stalin vowed to starve them into submission. More than a million farmers who resisted collectivization were evicted from their homes, stripped of their possessions, exiled to arctic labor camps or executed.

The Soviet government imposed exorbitant grain quotas on the farms and confiscated all foodstuffs to ensure that nothing would be left to feed the people. Armed units surrounded the stricken territories, preventing people from leaving in search of food. Those who tried to flee were forced back to their homes where they inevitably died. Farmers who attempted to hide grain or other food were executed. Withholding or stealing grain, considered the "property" of the Soviet Union, became a crime punishable by death.

A Cultural Genocide?

The Holodomor was not caused by a bad harvest or drought. At the peak of the famine-genocide, Stalin announced a record harvest in Ukraine, and the Soviet government exported almost 4 million tons of grain.

The Kremlin's attempted extermination of Ukrainians was not restricted to farmers. The Kremlin embarked on a program of cultural genocide known as "Russification" to destroy Ukraine's language, culture and historical memory. Writers, scholars, artists, clergy, and school teachers were arrested and executed. As a result of these purges, Ukraine's best and brightest were wiped out, its development as a nation was crippled for generations. Stalin used the Holodomor as a political tool: his ultimate goal was to crush the Ukrainian national revival that had begun in the 1920s and that threatened to renew Ukrainian aspirations for an independent state.

How Many Died?

Stalin boasted privately that 10 million perished during the Holodomor, though as with many genocides, the exact numbers are difficult to ascertain. For decades, the Soviet regime covered up the atrocity and even denied its existence, as does today's Russia. It was not until the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the subsequent establishment of an independent Ukraine that many classified KGB archives were uncovered, exposing a wealth of gruesome information. With access to newly discovered documents, 7 million remains the consensus.

The Holodomor is "the classic example of Soviet genocide, its longest and broadest experiment of Russification – the destruction of the Ukrainian nation."

-Raphael Lemkin, originator of the word 'genocide' and author of the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

In 1988, the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded in its findings that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933."



Holodomor victims on a street in Kharkiv, then-capital of Ukraine, 1933. (Photo by Winnerberger. Institute of Ukrainian History, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.)



Sacks of grain turned over to authorities in Kaharlyk near Kyiv, 1932. (The Ukrainian Museum, New York, gift of the Central Government Archives of Ukraine.)



"The Bitter Memory of Childhood". Created by Petro Drozdovskii. National Museum "Holodomor Victims Memorial", Kyiv, Ukraine.