

# HOLODOMOR 1932–1933

GENOCIDAL FAMINE IN UKRAINE



HOLODOMOR  
MEMORIAL DAY  
IN SCHOOLS  
NOVEMBER 27, 2020

*“A genocide begins with  
the killing of one man,  
not because of what  
he has done, but  
because of who he is.”*

– KOFI ANNAN  
Secretary General  
of the UN, 2001

PRODUCED BY:

**Holodomor Research & Education Consortium**  
at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta  
Holodomor Education Team, Ukrainian Canadian Congress

# HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY

## NOVEMBER 27, 2020

IN SCHOOLS (4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY OF NOVEMBER)

WORLDWIDE, HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY IS  
NOVEMBER 28 (4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF NOVEMBER)

### BASIC FACTS

- Stalin issued a series of policies targeting the population of Ukraine which led to genocide by starvation in Ukraine.
- The Holodomor occurred in a time of peace, not as a result of war or natural disaster.
- Food was used as a weapon.
- Wheat and other grains were confiscated from farmers by the Communist government. Some of it was sold for export to fund Stalin's Five-Year Plan.
- 1/3 of all villages in Ukraine were blacklisted, blockaded and the people were left to die.
- Millions of innocent people died.
- 28,000 people died per day at the height of the Holodomor in June of 1933.
- 31% of those who died were children under the age of 10.
- Additionally, the cultural, religious and political leadership of Ukraine was largely destroyed during the 1930s.
- The Holodomor was denied, covered up and ignored by the world for over five decades.



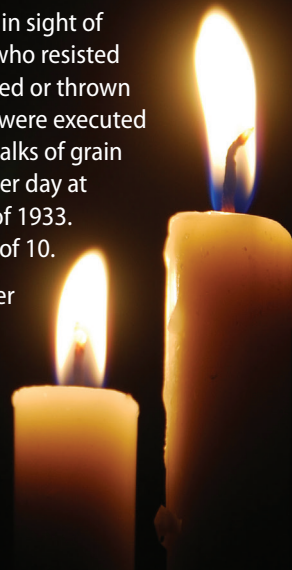
## MEMORIAL DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Today we remember the victims and survivors of one of the darkest chapters in human history. In 1932 and 1933, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Union deliberately created a devastating famine in Ukraine. At least 4 million people died of enforced starvation during the *Holodomor*, meaning *extermination by starvation*.

Canada designates the 4th Friday and Saturday in November as **Holodomor Memorial Day** to commemorate the Ukrainian genocide. It is remembered as an attack on Ukrainian identity and culture. 85% of the Ukrainian population were village farmers who were targeted for destruction. Brigades of Communist activists were ordered to go from house to house in the villages to confiscate grain and all other foodstuffs to fulfill impossibly high grain quotas imposed by the Soviet government. They even used special metal rods to probe the ground and potential hiding places where they suspected grain could be hidden. Beginning in 1933, measures were additionally introduced to stop Ukrainian farmers from leaving their villages in search of food. This condemned millions of people in Ukraine to a slow and agonizing death by starvation.

The results were devastating. In the world's most fertile farmland, nothing was left to eat. People caught rats, frogs, earthworms, made tree bark pancakes and pinecone soup, ate grass and roots. Meanwhile, grain stocks and other food taken from the villages were exported to pay for Stalin's Five Year Plan of industrialization. Some grain rotted by the ton within sight of families starving to death. Those who resisted were shot, sent to the gulag, robbed or thrown out of their homes. Even children were executed for trying to pick up a few loose stalks of grain in the fields. 28,000 people died per day at the height of the Famine in June of 1933. 31% were children under the age of 10.

Let us take a moment to remember the victims of the Holodomor. Let us also reflect on the actions we can take daily in our school and our communities to combat genocide and the abuse of human rights in our world.



## HOLODOMOR FILMS

### ***Holodomor: Voices of Survivors***

A 30 minute DVD with firsthand accounts of 25 Canadian survivors who tell their stories as children during the Holodomor.  
Contact: [office@ucrdc.org](mailto:office@ucrdc.org)

### ***The Soviet Story***

The first 11 minutes are an excellent introduction to the Holodomor.

[https://youtu.be/zZTA8xc4\\_8w](https://youtu.be/zZTA8xc4_8w)

### ***Hunger For Truth: The Rhea Clyman Story***

The Canadian journalist and eyewitness of the Holodomor in Ukraine was amongst the first to write about it.

[www.holodomortour.ca](http://www.holodomortour.ca)

### ***Genocide Revealed***

This award-winning documentary features personal and historical archival information on the Holodomor. Educational versions are available on DVD in 26 & 52 minute segments.

Contact: [yurij@yuhovy.com](mailto:yurij@yuhovy.com)

### ***Harvest of Despair***

This award-winning documentary provides background information with media coverage from the 1930s.

Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre  
416-966-1819, [office@ucrdc.org](mailto:office@ucrdc.org), [www.ucrdc.org/Films.html](http://www.ucrdc.org/Films.html)

### ***Stalin's Secret Genocide***

<https://youtu.be/JYG7fKe4JHA>

### ***Bitter Harvest***

A feature film presenting life in Ukraine before and during the Holodomor through the life of two young adults.

[www.bitterharvestfilm.com](http://www.bitterharvestfilm.com)

<http://georgemendeluk.com/projects/>

### ***Mr. Jones***

Welsh Journalist Gareth Jones risks his life to expose the truth about the devastating famine in the Soviet Union in the early 1930s. <https://youtu.be/gj2Cn1N9iAU>



## HOLODOMOR WEBSITES

### ***Holodomor Research & Education Consortium (HREC)***

Teaching materials, lesson plans and other resources and educational materials. **HREC Education is an Accepted Educational Partner of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)**  
[education.holodomor.ca](http://education.holodomor.ca)

### ***Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre (UCRDC)***

*Share the Story:* Short excerpts of 80 Canadian survivors of the Holodomor.

[www.sharethestory.ca](http://www.sharethestory.ca)

[www.holodomorsurvivors.ca](http://www.holodomorsurvivors.ca)

### ***Edmonton Catholic School District***

Lesson plans and suggested activities for all grades.

[www.ecsd.net/AboutUs/Overview/Holodomor](http://www.ecsd.net/AboutUs/Overview/Holodomor)

### ***Manitoba Education and Training***

Lesson plans and suggested activities for all grades.

[www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/multic/holodomor.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/multic/holodomor.html)

### ***Connecticut Holodomor Committee***

[www.holodomorct.org](http://www.holodomorct.org)

### ***"Exposing the Ukrainian Holodomor—How starvation was used as a political weapon"***

Unit 2, Chapter 5

[www.voicesintoaction.ca/Learn/Unit2/Chapter5/](http://www.voicesintoaction.ca/Learn/Unit2/Chapter5/)

## SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS

To book speakers and workshops and to visit, view exhibits and hear survivor testimonies from the archives, contact:

### **Holodomor Research & Education Consortium (HREC) at the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta**

Conducts teacher training sessions, workshops, class visits and presentations, with educational materials.

Website: [education.holodomor.ca](http://education.holodomor.ca)

Phone: **416 923 4732**

Email: [hreced@ualberta.ca](mailto:hreced@ualberta.ca)

### **Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre (UCRDC)**

UCRDC conducts class visits and presentations featuring testimonies of survivors and their children, shows documentary films and exhibits photos and posters.

Website: [www.ucrdc.org](http://www.ucrdc.org)

Phone: **416 966 1819**

Email: [office@ucrdc.org](mailto:office@ucrdc.org)

Both are located at:

**620 Spadina Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, ON M5S 2H4**



## HOLODOMOR PRINT MATERIAL

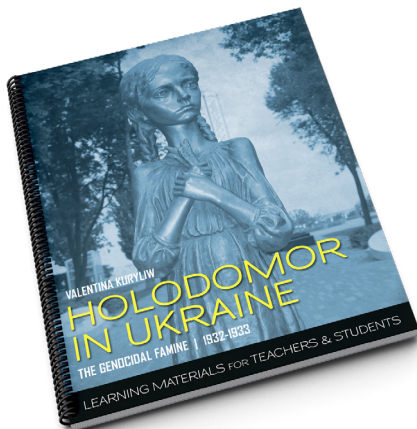
### *Holodomor In Ukraine,*

#### **The Genocidal Famine: 1932-1933**

by V. Kuryliw, Edmonton: CIUS Press, 2018

Teaching materials, lesson plans and assignments with straightforward, sensible and basic information about the Famine. The book is accessible, instantly useable and packed with ideas and photocopiable resources.

Contact: [hreced@ualberta.ca](mailto:hreced@ualberta.ca)



### **Red Famine: Stalin's War On Ukraine**

by A. Applebaum, NY: Doubleday Books, 2017

An authoritative book on the Ukrainian genocide based on the most recent research.

### **The Holodomor Reader**

by B. Klid & A. Motyl, Edmonton: CIUS Press, 2012

A collection of key texts and materials.

[www.ciuspress.com/catalogue/history/324/the-holodomor-reader](http://www.ciuspress.com/catalogue/history/324/the-holodomor-reader)

### **Stalin's Genocides**

by N. Naimark, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010

Features the Holodomor and other genocides of the Soviet period.

### **Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin**

by T. Snyder, New York: Basic Books, 2010

One major chapter specifically on the Holodomor.

### **Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine: Documents and Materials**

by R. Pyrih, Kyiv: Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Publishing House, 2008

73 archival documents with correspondence about the Holodomor.

Print copies: [hreced@ualberta.ca](mailto:hreced@ualberta.ca)

E-version: [education.holodomor.ca/educational-resources-list/pyrih-documents/](http://education.holodomor.ca/educational-resources-list/pyrih-documents/)

## THE HOLODOMOR MOBILE CLASSROOM

### **Take students beyond the textbook.**

An interactive educational state of the art, mobile learning space. The Holodomor Mobile Classroom seats 33 students and features a 60-minute lesson with thought-provoking videos on the Holodomor and interactive learning activities that promote social responsibility and global awareness. It supports provincial curriculum expectations while promoting digital literacy and critical thinking.



### **To book the Holodomor Mobile Classroom:**

Website: [www.holodomortour.ca](http://www.holodomortour.ca)

Phone: **416 966 9800**

Email: [Holodomor.tour@cufoundation.ca](mailto:Holodomor.tour@cufoundation.ca)

## TORONTO HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL

### **Holodomor Memorial Parkette, Exhibition Place**

The *Bitter Memories of Childhood* monument by Ukrainian sculptor Petro Drozdovsky was unveiled in October 2018 for the 85th Commemoration of the Holodomor in Ukraine. The statue depicts the most vulnerable of the Holodomor's victims and provides an opportunity for student reflection.

Located just inside the Princes' Gate entrance of the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) grounds, the memorial site includes a pathway through a small park leading to 3 millstones, each of which provides QR code information about the Holodomor, and the statue. Students can reflect on the history, survivor testimonials and legacy of the Holodomor.

For more information on this and other monuments, visit: [education.holodomor.ca/introduction/monuments/](http://education.holodomor.ca/introduction/monuments/)



# HREC EDUCATOR AWARD FOR HOLODOMOR LESSON PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The annual **HREC Educator Award for Holodomor Lesson Plan Development** is intended to foster the development of innovative, creative and interactive lessons for grades K-12 that develop critical thinking skills while addressing the topic of the Holodomor, and to recognize the outstanding educators who create them. The winning lesson plans will be posted on the HREC Education website.



**2020 HREC  
EDUCATOR AWARD  
FOR HOLODOMOR LESSON PLAN  
DEVELOPMENT**

This year's applications must be submitted by **May 1, 2020**.  
For further details and to download application form visit:  
[education.holodomor.ca](http://education.holodomor.ca)

## APRIL IS GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE, CONDEMNATION, PREVENTION & EDUCATION MONTH

On April 24, 2015, the House of Commons unanimously passed a historic motion (M-587) to recognize the month of April as Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month.

Canada has been affected by many genocides and recognizes: the Armenian Genocide, Ukrainian Holodomor, Jewish Holocaust, the Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the Genocide in Bosnia. The Canadian Parliament has also recognized the ongoing genocide being committed against the Yezidi in Syria and Iraq today, the Rohingya in Myanmar and the Romani during WWII.

Educators are encouraged to take time in April to remember those who suffered and lost their lives in the Holodomor and other genocides, to commit to using education to protect and defend human rights and dignity everywhere, and to stand up against prejudice, hate and other forms of exclusionary practices that are known precursors to crimes against humanity.



Kharkiv, Ukraine, 1932-33  
Photo: A. Wienerberger, Innitzer Collection