

## Holodomor Quotation List for Analysis

"I saw the ravages of the famine of 1932-1933 in the Ukraine: hordes of families in rags begging at the railway stations, the women lifting up to the compartment window their starving brats, which, with drumstick limbs, big cadaverous heads and puffed bellies, looked like embryos out of alcohol bottles ..."

*(As remembered by Arthur Koestler, a famous British novelist, journalist, and critic. Koestler spent about three months in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv during the Famine. He wrote about his experiences in "The God That Failed," a 1949 book which collects together six essays with the testimonies of a number of famous ex-Communists, who were writers and journalists.)*

Our father used to read the Bible to us, but whenever he came to the passage mentioning 'bloodless war' he could not explain to us what that term meant. When in 1933 he was dying from hunger he called us to his deathbed and said "This, children, is what is called bloodless war..."

*(As remembered by Hanna Doroshenko, survivor)*

"What I saw that morning ... was inexpressibly horrible. On a battlefield men die quickly, they fight back ... Here I saw people dying in solitude by slow degrees, dying hideously, without the excuse of sacrifice for a cause. They had been trapped and left to starve, each in his own home, by a political decision made in a far-off capital around conference and banquet tables. There was not even the consolation of inevitability to relieve the horror."

*(As remembered by Victor Kravchenko, a Soviet defector who wrote up his experiences of life in the Soviet Union and as a Soviet official, especially in his 1946 book "I Chose Freedom." "I Chose Freedom" containing extensive revelations on collectivization, Soviet prison camps and the use of slave labour.*

"From 1931 to 1934 we had great harvests. The weather conditions were great. However, all the grain was taken from us. People searched the fields for mice burrows hoping to find measly amounts of grain stored by mice..."

*(As remembered by Mykola Karlosh, survivor)*

"I still get nauseous when I remember the burial hole that all the dead livestock was thrown into. I still remember people screaming by that hole. Driven to madness by hunger people were ripping the meat of the dead animals. The stronger ones were

getting bigger pieces. People ate dogs, cats, just about anything to survive."  
*(As remembered by Vasil Boroznyak, survivor)*

"People were dying all over our village. The dogs ate the ones that were not buried. If people could catch the dogs they were eaten. In the neighboring village people ate bodies that they dug up."  
*(As remembered by Motrya Mostova, survivor)*

"I'm asking for your permission to advance me any amount of grain. I'm completely sick. I don't have any food. I've started to swell up and I can hardly move my feet. Please don't refuse me or it will be too late."  
*(From a petition to the authorities by P. Lube, survivor)*

"In the spring when acacia trees started blooming everyone began eating their flowers. I remember that our neighbor who didn't have her own acacia tree climbed on ours and I went to tell my mother that she was eating our flowers. My mother only smiled sadly."  
*(As remembered by Vasil Demchenko, survivor)*

"Of our neighbors I remember all the Solveiki family died, all of the Kapshuks, all the Rahachenkos too – and the Yeremo family – three of them, still alive, were thrown into the mass grave..."  
*(As remembered by Ekaterina Marchenko, survivor)*

"A boy, 9 years old, said: "Mother said, 'Save yourself, run to town.' I turned back twice; I could not bear to leave my mother, but she begged and cried, and I finally went for good."  
*(Recollected by an observer simply known as Dr. M.M., survivor)*

"At that time I lived in the village of Yaressky of the Poltava region. More than a half of the village population perished as a result of the famine. It was terrifying to walk through the village: swollen people moaning and dying. The bodies of the dead were buried together, because there was no one to dig the graves.

There were no dogs and no cats. People died at work; it was of no concern whether your body was swollen, whether you could work, whether you have eaten, whether you could – you had to go and work. Otherwise – you are the enemy of the people.

Many people never lived to see the crops of 1933 and those crops were considerable. A more severe famine, other sufferings were awaiting ahead. Rye was starting to become ripe. Those who were still able made their way to the fields. This road, however, was covered with dead bodies, some could not reach the fields, some ate grain and died right away. The patrol was hunting them down, collecting everything, trampled down the collected spikelets, beat the people, came into their homes, seized everything. What they could not take – they burned."

*(From the memories of Galina Gubenko, Poltava region, survivor)*

"The famine began. People were eating cats, dogs in the Ros' river all the frogs were caught out. Children were gathering insects in the fields and died swollen. Stronger peasants were forced to collect the dead to the cemeteries; they were stocked on the carts like firewood, then dropped off into one big pit. The dead were all around: on the roads, near the river, by the fences. I used to have 5 brothers. Altogether 792 souls have died in our village during the famine, in the war years – 135 souls"

*(As remembered by Antonina Meleshchenko, village of Kosivka, region of Kyiv, survivor)*

"I remember Holodomor very well, but have no wish to recall it. There were so many people dying then. They were lying out in the streets, in the fields, floating in the flux. My uncle lived in Derevka – he died of hunger and my aunt went crazy – she ate her own child. At the time one couldn't hear the dogs barking – they were all eaten up."

*(From the memories of Galina Smyrna, village Uspenka of Dniepropetrovsk region, survivor)*

Source:

<http://holodomorct.org/holodomor-survivor-eyewitness-accounts/>