

# HOLODOMOR 1932-1933

GENOCIDAL FAMINE IN UKRAINE

HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY  
IN SCHOOLS

Fourth Friday in November

HOLODOMOR REMEMBRANCE DAY  
IN SCHOOLS

April 16

*In my view, the best thing you could do to commemorate the victims of the famine is to build a society where this could never happen again.*

— Anne Applebaum

PRODUCED BY:

**Holodomor Research & Education Consortium**

at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta

National Holodomor Education Committee, Ukrainian Canadian Congress



NHEC



# HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY

IN SCHOOLS 4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY OF NOVEMBER  
WORLDWIDE 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 starve to death.
- 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.
- The Government of Canada officially recognized the Holodomor as genocide in May 2008.



## MEMORIAL DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

What happens when food is taken away and used as a weapon against the very people who grew it?

Food is an essential human right that is part of our right to life. It sustains and nourishes our bodies and minds, unites families and communities, and is part of our cultural identity and celebrations.

In 1932-33, Joseph Stalin, the leader of the former Soviet Union, imposed policies that led to the confiscation of livestock and crops grown by farmers in Ukraine. His government officials searched homes for hidden food, seized private property, forbade citizens to leave their villages to find food, and closed the borders of Ukraine to prevent people from searching for food elsewhere. This resulted in a human-made famine, a genocide of the Ukrainian people by starvation, known as the Holodomor. Food was used as a weapon to starve the farmers into submission under Stalin's dictatorial rule.

The Holodomor genocide has been denied, covered-up and ignored for decades, and the archival records remained closed to researchers for many years. After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the facts of this historical injustice and genocide were brought to light and the Holodomor is now recognized as one of nine genocides by the Canadian Government.

In Canada, we remember the Holodomor on two days in the school year. On April 16th, we observe Holodomor Remembrance Day in Schools during April Genocide Month. In November, we commemorate Holodomor Memorial Day on the fourth Friday during Holodomor Education Week. These are days we learn about the Holodomor genocide and remember the millions of victims who died. We also honour the strength, determination, and resilience of the people of Ukraine who managed to survive.

In 2024, food is once more being used as a weapon against the peoples of Ukraine and other countries. Learning about the Holodomor empowers us with knowledge about the past and helps us respond to the war in Ukraine today with understanding. With this knowledge and understanding we can build our future global communities with compassion and hope. Let's remember the people of Ukraine who were starved to death during the Holodomor, and the survivors whose children again fight for their identity and right to exist as a nation today.

*Pamela Clark is an educator with the Calgary Board of Education in Alberta, Canada, and the 2024 recipient of the HREC Educator Award for Holodomor Lesson Plan Development.*

## 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@ucrdoc.org](mailto:office@ucrdoc.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/product/hunger-for-truth-the-rhea-clyman-story-dvd/](http://www.holodomortour.ca/product/hunger-for-truth-the-rhea-clyman-story-dvd/)

### ***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@yluhovy.com](mailto:yurij@yluhovy.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@ucrdoc.org](mailto:office@ucrdoc.org), [www.ucrdoc.org/Films.html](http://www.ucrdoc.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.amazon.ca/BITTER-HARVEST-Max-Irons/dp/B06Y6KZKPG](http://www.amazon.ca/BITTER-HARVEST-Max-Irons/dp/B06Y6KZKPG)

### ***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://www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com/mr-jones>



## 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)  
And 21 Canadian children of survivors: [ucrdoc.org/cohs](http://ucrdoc.org/cohs)

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

Lesson plans and suggested activities for all grades.

[www.ecsd.net/page/1585/holodomor-memorial-day](http://www.ecsd.net/page/1585/holodomor-memorial-day)

### ***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 – "FAST" lesson plans

<https://www.voicesintoaction.ca/lessons/unit2/chapter5/>

### ***"How A Grain of Wheat Linked Two Worlds"***

Unit of study

[https://www.stf.sk.ca/resource\\_unit\\_plan/how-grain-wheat-linked-two-worlds/](https://www.stf.sk.ca/resource_unit_plan/how-grain-wheat-linked-two-worlds/)

## SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS

To visit, view exhibits and hear survivor testimonies book speakers and workshops, contact:

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

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)***

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

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

Phone: **416 966 1819**

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

Both are located at:

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

## HREC'S TOP PICKS OF RESOURCES

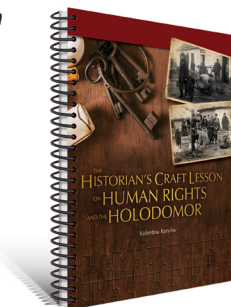
<https://education.holodomor.ca/top-picks/>

## HOLODOMOR PRINT MATERIAL

### *The Historian's Craft Lesson on Human Rights and the Holodomor*

by V. Kuryliw, Edmonton: CIUS Press, 2024

A sample lesson which engages students in actively analysing and synthesizing a variety of resources utilizing interactive methodologies.



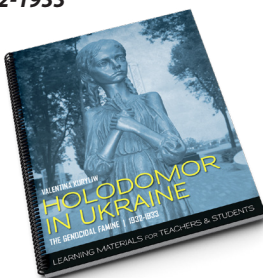
### *Holodomor In Ukraine, The Genocidal Famine: 1932-1933*

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 photocopyable resources.

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

<https://education.holodomor.ca/holodomor-in-ukraine-book/>



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

by A. Applebaum, NY: Doubleday Books, 2017

### *The Holodomor Reader*

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

[www.ciuspress.com/product/the-holodomor-reader](http://www.ciuspress.com/product/the-holodomor-reader)

### *Stalin's Genocides*

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

### *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 about the Holodomor.

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

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

## 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.



**This year's applications must be submitted by May 1, 2025.**

For further details and to download application form visit:

[education.holodomor.ca](https://education.holodomor.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/](https://education.holodomor.ca/introduction/monuments/)



# APRIL 16 HOLODOMOR REMEMBRANCE DAY IN SCHOOLS

## During April Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, Prevention & Education Month

The Holodomor is one of nine global genocides recognized by the Government of Canada and by nine of Canada's provincial legislatures. It was in the Spring of 1933, during the Holodomor's deadliest year, that the number of deaths escalated significantly.

Every year in April, Ukrainians worldwide traditionally visit cemeteries and remember the dead with special memorial ceremonies held the week after Easter, when victims of the Holodomor are specifically remembered.

Educators are encouraged to take time in April to remember those who suffered and lost their lives in the Holodomor and other genocides, and to commit to using education to protect and defend human rights and dignity everywhere.



Kharkiv, Ukraine, 1932-33

Photo: A. Wienerberger, Innitzer Collection