

# HOLODOMOR 1932-1933

GENOCIDAL FAMINE IN UKRAINE

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.

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

### HREC'S TOP PICKS OF RESOURCES

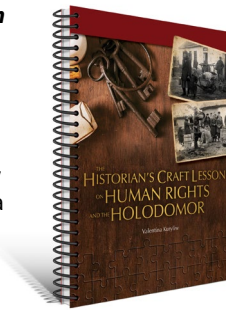
<https://education.holodomor.ca/top-picks/>

### 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.

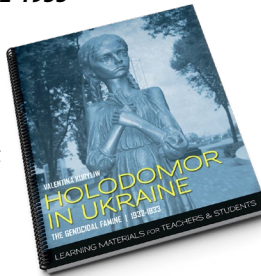


#### *Holodomor In Ukraine, The Genocidal Famine: 1932-1933*

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/)



# HOLODOMOR 1932-1933

GENOCIDAL FAMINE IN UKRAINE



NOVEMBER 21, 2025  
HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY  
IN SCHOOLS  
Fourth Friday in November

*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



# 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

Today is Holodomor Memorial Day, when we remember and pay tribute to the millions of Ukrainians who became victims of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's policy of collectivization. It led to the forced famine of 1932-1933 known as the Holodomor, meaning "death inflicted by starvation."

The victims were mostly Ukrainian farmers, labelled "kulaks" and "enemies of the state," who protested the collectivization of their private farms into government controlled collective farms. Those who opposed Stalin's policies and supported Ukrainian language, religion, or cultural traditions were targeted by the Soviet regime. Stalin cut off food supplies to Ukraine, confiscated Ukraine's grain harvest, and took away its livestock, land and property, leaving people without any food. Farmers were also prevented from travelling elsewhere in search of food. This led to the mass starvation of millions, one third of these deaths were children under the age of 10.

The Holodomor took place 92 years ago. But its memory still resonates today as Ukrainians defend themselves against a Russian invasion and occupation which attempts to destroy Ukraine as a nation. Wheatfields, hospitals, schools, cultural sites and more are bombed with missiles. Media outlets are used to spread disinformation globally to deny Ukrainians their distinct identity. Such human rights violations recall those during the Holodomor, which is now recognized as genocide.

The term genocide was coined by lawyer Raphael Lemkin who survived the Holocaust. Lemkin spoke of the Ukrainian Holodomor as the "classic example" of "Soviet genocide – of destruction, not of individuals only but of a culture and a nation." Learning and recognizing the truth about our difficult histories empowers us with knowledge about the past to help us respond to the war in Ukraine today with greater understanding. With this knowledge and understanding we can build future global communities with compassion and hope.

Let us remember the people of Ukraine who were starved to death in the Holodomor, and the survivors whose grandchildren are fighting for their identity and right to exist as a nation again today.

*Kelly Hiebert is a Manitoba history and social studies educator and Curriculum Consultant for Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Development. He received the Governor General's history award for excellence in 2021 and a HREC Educator Award Honourable Mention in 2020.*

## 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. [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.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.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. [ecsd.net/holodomor-memorial-day-archived](http://ecsd.net/holodomor-memorial-day-archived)

### **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 [stf.sk.ca/resource\\_unit\\_plan/how-grain-wheat-linked-two-worlds/](http://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.ucrdc.org](http://www.ucrdc.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**