



# Holodomor Resource Package





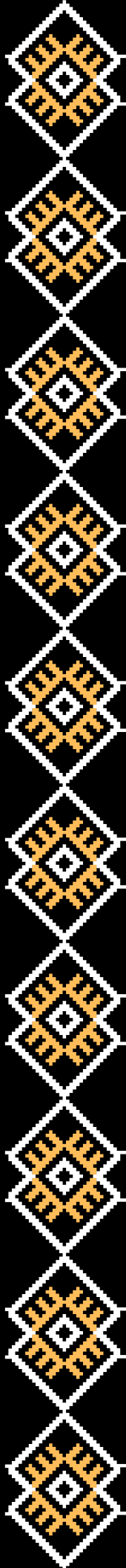
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# 1. Introduction

Despite tireless efforts of Ukrainians and friends of Ukraine to raise awareness about the Holodomor, it is necessary to educate people of all ages, and especially youth, about the 1932-1933 forced-famine genocide and its long-term consequences for the Ukrainian nation. There are many educational resources and initiatives available to learn and/or teach about the Holodomor but, it can be overwhelming to embark on an educational journey without a guide. This package is intended to give students and their Ukrainian student organizations the resources and guidelines they need in order to educate themselves and their student communities about the Holodomor.

This package has been produced by the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union's (SUSK) Advocacy Committee with the gracious assistance of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress's (UCC) National Holodomor Awareness Committee.



## 2. Basic Facts Summary

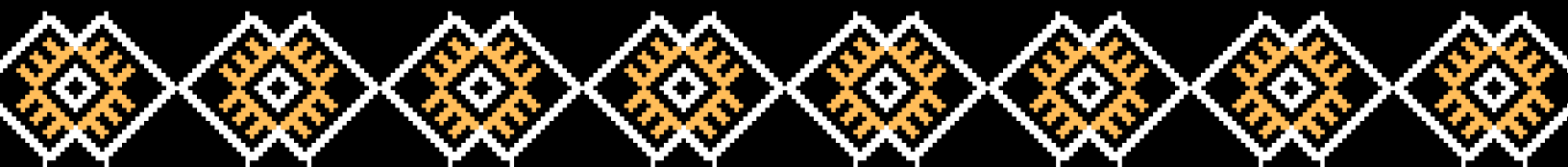
The Holodomor refers to the forced famine-genocide perpetrated by the communist regime of the USSR against the Ukrainian people in 1932-1933. The man-made famine carried out by the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin claimed the lives of millions of Ukrainians in a brutal attempt to assert Soviet dominance over Ukraine and crush the will of the Ukrainian nation to fight for freedom and an independent state.

The Holodomor was part of a larger campaign to subjugate Ukraine that lasted from 1928 to 1938. During this so-called 'decade of terror', the leadership of the USSR imprisoned, deported, and executed numerous members of Ukraine's intellectual elite, and undermined the socioeconomic base of the nation by starving the peasant farmers.

Despite Soviet attempts to cover up the truth and diminish the significance of the Holodomor, Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term "genocide" and championed the adoption of the UN Convention on Genocide, viewed it as an attack on the Ukrainian nation and defined it as genocide. Soviet agricultural quotas were elevated to unreasonable levels and the many policies enacted by the USSR had the murderous intent of deliberately depriving Ukrainians of any and all food sources.



Use this QR code to learn more on the SUSK website



# 3. Holodomor, Russian Aggression, and Denial

Throughout the twentieth century, Soviet authorities and academic researchers did everything in their power to cover up the truth about the intentional starving of the Ukrainian people. During the Holodomor and many decades that followed it, the leadership of the USSR instituted an information blockade that silenced any voice attempting to spread the truth about the genocide of Ukrainians beyond the Soviet borders. Foreigners were not allowed to travel to areas that have been hard-hit by the famine, and the reports of journalists like Gareth Jones, Malcolm Muggeridge and Rhea Clyman, who wrote about the Holodomor, were dismissed while those of Walter Duranty, who denied the existence of a famine, were upheld. The aid offered to the Soviets by international organizations like the Red Cross was refused based on false claims that there was no famine.

Only after the collapse of the USSR did the truth start to gradually come out.

10 TUESDAY, THE DAILY EXPRESS

## STARVING UKRAINE

More Secrets From The Hidden Camera

### FIELD AS DUMPING GROUND FOR VICTIMS OF THE FAMINE

TRAGIC JOURNEYS' END FOR FORMER OXFORD MAN

HERE is the second of the series of articles describing conditions in famine-stricken Ukraine, as seen by a correspondent who broke away from a conducted tour to make his own investigations. The first article appeared in yesterday's "Daily Express".

"Daily Express" Special Correspondent.

RETURNING to a village which I shall not name—I do not wish to subject the few remaining residents to G.P.S. notices—I found nine peasants near their confined living and sleeping camp. It was a storage place for vegetables—when there were vegetables in this former grain bin of Russia.

I talked with a peasant who told a story which had been told to me by the other boys of the camp. It was a tragic story of a woman who had been carried off by the G.P.S. and had been found in a ditch. She had been found in a ditch in the middle of the night. She had been found in a ditch in the middle of the night. She had been found in a ditch in the middle of the night.



The two boys (top picture) have found treasure—loose potatoes, to the left of an old peasant woman. She was used to liberate. The boys carried the sacks with the grain and potato. The second picture shows a young woman—obviously pretty—whose body was almost bare on the dumping ground.

### 'WIMBLEDON' UNDER THE DOWNS

#### Cheques For Child Wit And Wisdom

TENNIS STARS TAKE A "BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY"

Take a note this week of the funny things you hear children say. Write one down on a postcard. It may mean \$50 to you. The "Daily Express" this holiday fortnight, when £200,000, are being awarded this week to children of the

CHICAGO AMERICAN

## SIX MILLION PERISH IN SOVIET FAMINE

Peasants' Crops Seized, They and Their Animals Starve



Reporter Risks Life to Get Photographs Showing Starvation

By GARETH JONES

Mr. Jones is one of Mr. Lloyd George's private secretaries. He has just returned from an extensive tour on foot in Soviet Russia. He speaks Russian fluently and here is the terrible story the peasants told him.

A FEW days ago I stood in a worker's cottage outside Moscow. A father and a son, the father a Russian skilled worker in a Moscow factory and the son a member of the Young Communist League, stood glumly in front of me. The father, trembling and almost incoherent, told me the story of his son's death. The son had died of starvation. Look at Chelyabinsk, where the famine is still in its early stages. Look at the Volga, where the famine is still in its early stages. Look at the Volga, where the famine is still in its early stages.

Friday, March 31, 1933 THE EVENING STANDARD

## FAMINE RULES RUSSIA

### The 5-year Plan Has Killed the Bread Supply

By GARETH JONES

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What did the peasants say? There was a story which resembled everywhere I went that that was "there is no bread". The other peasant, who was the husband of the Russian wife, said "All the workers. Even within a few miles of Moscow there is no bread left. It is being taken to the countryside in that district I chatted to several workers who were travelling with empty sacks towards Moscow. They said "We have to go all the way to Moscow to get bread and then they will only give us two pounds, which costs three roubles (six shillings) if it is terrible. We have no bread left."

"Have you potatoes?" I asked. Even peasants I asked nodded negatively with sadness. "To the peasants the only bread is what they can get from the centre point upon which the life revolves."

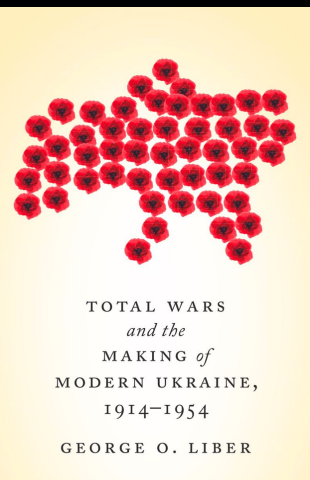
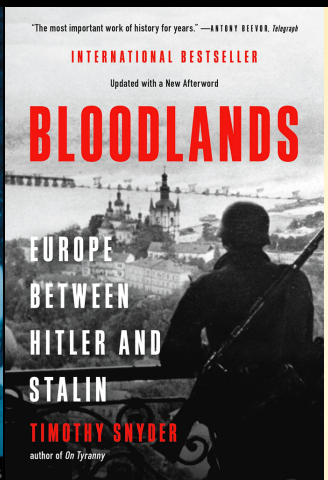
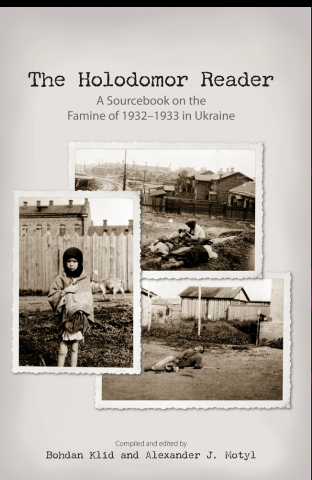
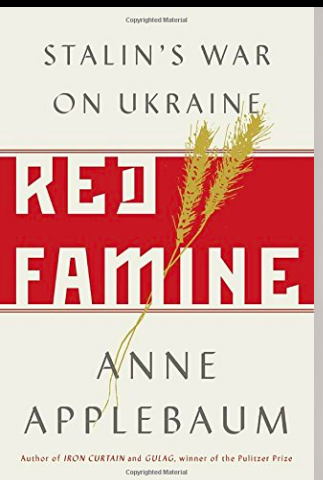
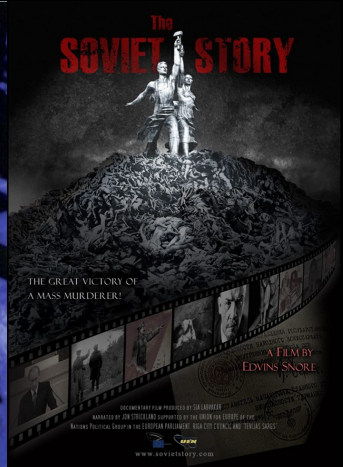
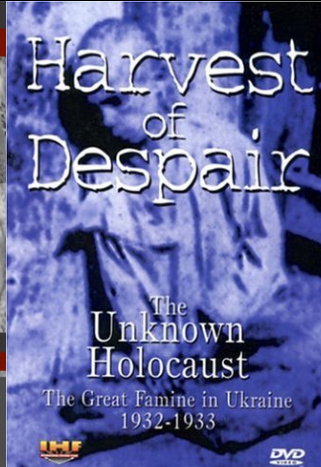
"The cattle have nearly all died. How can we feed the cattle when we have no fodder in every village I visited. The horse is now a question of life and death, for with no hay or straw, how can one see for the next harvest, then death. It is the only prospect in the future."

The reply spelled doom for most of the villages. The peasants said "Most of our horses have died and we have no little food left. The remaining ones are nearly all dead."

# 4. Books/Films/Documentaries

## Top Picks by HREC Education

### Top Picks (PDF Version)



## 5. Further Resources

[The Holodomor: Genocide of the Ukrainian People](#)

[HREC Holodomor Basic Facts](#)

[UkraineWorld article "Famine And Memory: 10 Things To Know About Holodomor"](#)

[Euromaidan Press article "About the Holodomor. Background Data"](#)

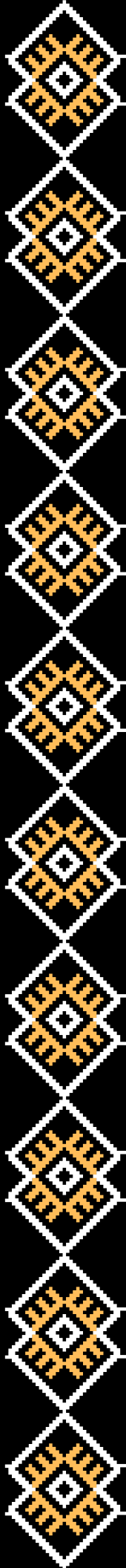
[Ukraïner article "Common Lies About the Holodomor"](#)

[Ukraïner video "What is the Holodomor? • Ukraïner • Museum of the Holodomor"](#)

[Video by Ukrainian Institute London "Holodomor: The Ukrainian Famine of the 1930s \(10 Things Everyone Should Know About Ukraine\)"](#)

[Website dedicated to a book "Two Regimes: A Mother's Memoir of Wartime Survival" by Teodora Verbitskaya, witness and survivor of the Holodomor and the Holocaust](#)

**Ukraïner**



## 6. Commemoration

### *Why do we commemorate?*

The past offers us a lens through which we can better understand the present and events happening in our world today. By remembering and understanding the past, we connect to the present and the future. History should teach and raise consciousness of the fundamental human rights of every individual; of what is at stake when the right of a people to exist is not respected.

### *We commemorate to:*

- Remember the victims
- Honour the lives of the survivors and their descendants
- Learn and share the truth
- Raise awareness
- Advocate for recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide by all levels of government, educational institutions, school boards

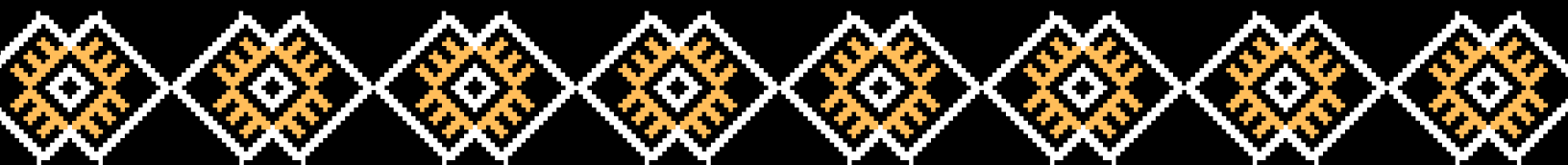
### *When do we commemorate?*

International Holodomor Memorial Day and National Holodomor Memorial Day:

Fourth Saturday of every November

Holodomor Memorial Day in schools:

Fourth Friday of every November





## 6. Commemoration

### *How do we commemorate?*

There are many ways to commemorate historical events and creativity is encouraged in planning commemorative events. There are common elements to every Holodomor commemoration including:

- Prayer
- Moment of silence
- Candle lighting
- Remembrance of the victims by name
- Acknowledgement of survivors
- Engagement of descendants
- Engagement of Canadians in remembrance
- Symbolism of 5 stalks of wheat

Also commonly organized are:

- Public commemorations with elected officials and media
- Information exhibits
- Black Flag Installations
- Social media campaigns
- Arts exhibits and cultural performances
- Film screenings
- Poetry readings
- Meetings with descendants
- Webinars, seminars, conferences

To commemorate more significant anniversaries, actions that include the global Ukrainian diaspora are organized under the auspices of the Ukrainian World Congress. The Ukrainian community in Canada participates under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Some international examples from the past:  
75th anniversary - International Remembrance Flame: A flame, similar to the design of an Olympic torch, travelled through 33 countries of the world to raise awareness.

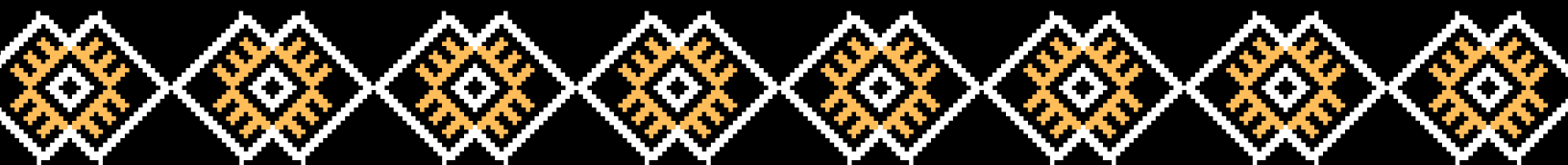
80th anniversary - For 80 days leading up to Holodomor Memorial Day one survivor testimony was featured on a designated site.

85th anniversary - For 85 days leading up to Holodomor Memorial Day a public candle lighting ceremony took place in a different country of the world with the last candle lighting in Kyiv.

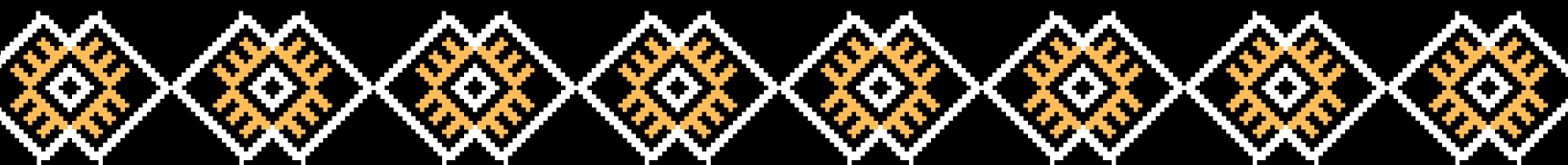
## 7. Contemporary Connections

The war and hybrid aggression we have been witnessing since 2014 is a continuation of the policies of a totalitarian regime designed to eradicate the Ukrainian people. The lessons of the Holodomor have never been more relevant.

On April 27, the Canadian House of Commons unanimously voted to call Russia's invasion and occupation of Ukraine a "genocide". Members of Parliament stated that there was "ample evidence of systemic and massive war crimes against humanity" being committed by Moscow. War crimes stated in this motion include mass atrocities, systematic, willful killing of Ukrainian civilians, desecration of corpses, forcible transfer of Ukrainian children, torture, physical harm, mental harm, and rape. Several other countries and governments around the world have also ruled the same as Canada. Importantly, the present day remembrance and commemoration of the Holodomor is shifting as the lessons and horrors of history resurface.



*The war and further invasion we are witnessing today, is a continuation of the policies of a totalitarian regime designed to eradicate and exterminate the Ukrainian people. It is also relevant to note that many, if not most Ukrainians, have already faced horrors under imperialism and totalitarianism including forced-mass deportations and forced labour camps, centuries of occupation, migration and displacement, world wars, loss of language and culture, and more. Additionally, many Ukrainians were impacted by the Holocaust, the genocide against people of the Jewish faith, and have thus also experienced the weight, grief, and trauma of multiple genocides. The lessons of the Holodomor have never been more relevant today.*



## 8. Holodomor Descendants Network

In the fall of 2020, the Ukrainian World Congress International Holodomor Coordinating Committee launched the Global Holodomor Descendants Network, followed by the launch of the Holodomor Descendants' Network in Canada in spring 2021.

The goal of this initiative is to create a platform for communication, support, advocacy, and activism where the voices of the Holodomor descendants can finally be heard; all are encouraged to actively engage descendants in commemoration and documentation of their experiences.

Additionally, you can hear the stories told by descendants of Holodomor survivors as part of a project launched by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre titled Children of Holodomor Survivors Speak. This is a great project to share with descendants in your community in promoting the network.



**CHILDREN OF HOLODOMOR SURVIVORS  
SPEAK**

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



**HOLODOMOR  
DESCENDANTS  
NETWORK**

## 9. Contacts

For more information on various Holodomor initiatives and ways to get involved please contact your local Ukrainian Student Organization, SUSK, Ukrainian Canadian Congress Branch, and/or other Ukrainian community organizations.

UCC welcomes participation in the development of national initiatives. If you're interested in the National Holodomor Awareness Committee and specifically, initiatives related to either the Holodomor Descendants Network or the upcoming 90th anniversary of the Holodomor, please contact Irka Mycak, Chair, via email [irene.mycak@gmail.com](mailto:irene.mycak@gmail.com). Additionally, you are always welcome to email our Inclusion and Diversity Officer at [inclusion@susk.ca](mailto:inclusion@susk.ca) for support from SUSK's Advocacy Committee.



# HREC Education

HOLODOMOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CONSORTIUM  
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University of Alberta