

Genocidal Famine - The Holodomor

What: Man-made Famine. Death inflicted by starvation.

When: 1932-1933 (the 1930s).

Where: Soviet Ukraine and the Kuban

Why: • Because of the Communist government policy of forced collectivization, their requisitioning of all grain and most of the food in Ukraine.

• Stalin's "fear of losing Ukraine" because of Ukrainian farmers' opposition to losing their land and their desire for an independent Ukraine.

Preparation

- Collectivization of agriculture
- Destruction of the Kulak/Kurkuls farmers (the leadership in the villages)
- Legislation legalizing the punitive actions of the Soviet government

Policy of Collectivization

In 1928, a policy of the Five Year Plan was adopted by the Soviet government to reorganize agriculture by doing away with all private ownership of land and setting up instead, collective farms owned by the state.

There were roughly 5,000,000 independent farms in Ukraine, which were reorganized into 25,000 collective farms, managed by brigadiers.

All farmers became employees of the state - without property, equipment, and were only paid if the quotas for the collective farm were met.

Persecution

Policies that led to the Holodomor:

How: The First Five Year Plan and Soviet government decrees

- Legislation to eliminate all private property and the requisitioning of all grain grown, including seed grain
- Mass farmer revolts occurred - which were ruthlessly suppressed
- Deportations and executions of farmers for opposing collectivization
- Kulaks/Kurkuls were labelled and singled out for elimination (such labelling was part of the dehumanization of Ukrainian village leaders and farmers)

Laws passed:

- Law of Five Stalks of Grain
- Internal passport system created for cities but not for farmers, villagers or rural areas
- Over 1/3 of the villages in Ukraine were blacklisted and cordoned off for not fulfilling grain quotas
- Forcibly taking all food (everything edible) from villagers in Ukraine and the Kuban region
- Closing Ukraine's borders to prevent farmers from searching for food in Russia

Extermination

- Death inflicted by starvation = genocide
 - Man-made Famine: Food is used as a weapon
 - Confiscation of all grain, even seed grain
 - Confiscation of all food stuffs - of everything edible in most parts of Ukraine
 - 31% of deaths were children under 10 years old
- Destruction of political and cultural leadership and clergy in Ukraine; replacement by non-Ukrainian leaders
 - Elimination of Ukrainization programs = Russification
 - Destroyed all thoughts of independence

Extermination

- Prevention of aid for the starving population from outside sources (USA, Canada, Poland)
- Mass deportations to the Gulag or Siberia
- Executions, imprisonment
- Denial of the Famine, both inside of the Soviet Union and externally

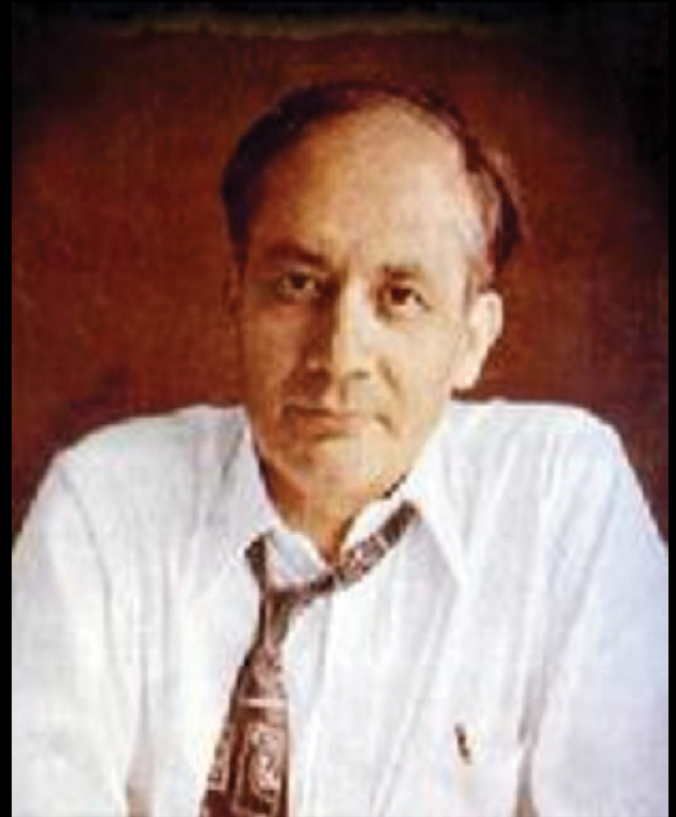
“I remain convinced that for Stalin to have complete power in his hands, he found it necessary to physically destroy the second-largest Soviet republic, meaning the annihilation of the Ukrainian peasantry, Ukrainian intelligentsia, Ukrainian language and history as understood by the people; to do away with Ukraine and things Ukrainian as such.

The calculation was very simple, very primitive: no people, therefore, no separate country, and thus no problem. Such a policy is Genocide in the classic sense of the word.”

**James Mace,
Holodomor Scholar, USA**

Raphael Lemkin,
“Soviet Genocide in... Ukraine,” 1953

“What I want to speak about is perhaps the classic example of Soviet genocide, its longest and broadest experiment in Russification – the destruction of the Ukrainian nation.”



Lemkin's four prong theory of the Ukrainian Genocide:

- The elimination of the Ukrainian elites
- The destruction of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church
- The starvation of the Ukrainian farming population
- The resettlement of depopulated areas