

The Great Famine in Ukraine: The Holodomor and Its Consequences, 1933 to the Present

The year 2008 marks the 75th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933, now often referred to by its Ukrainian name Holodomor (extermination by hunger). This man-made affliction ravaged, most devastatingly, Soviet Ukraine and the areas primarily settled by Ukrainians in the Northern Caucasus (the Kuban region) at the height of forced collectivization in the USSR. As in the Holocaust, the number of victims has not been precisely determined, but ongoing archival research and increasingly sophisticated demographic analyses have placed the number between 3 and 6 million. Even higher estimates are sometimes cited by Ukrainian government sources. The Holodomor occurred in what was traditionally called the breadbasket of Europe, at a time when the Soviet Union was denying food shortages, refusing outside assistance, and even increasing its grain exports to the world. Most tragically, this human catastrophe, inflicted by a government on its own people, during which close to one-quarter of Ukraine's rural population perished, was largely ignored, even denied, by the outside world.

Earlier projects at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute pioneered studies in the history of the Great Famine. It is the aim of this conference, however, to move beyond revisiting the background, course, and analysis of the events of 1932-33. Instead, it aims to forge forward to investigate the momentous subsequent impact of the Holodomor in Ukraine, in a framework which will examine its short-, mid-, and long-term consequences that reach, indeed, to our own day.



PROGRAM

Harvard Faculty Club
Library
20 Quincy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Monday, November 17, 2008
9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Opening

Michael S. Flier

*Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology;
Director, Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard
University*

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Andrea Graziosi

*Professor of History, University of Naples “Federico
II”; President, Italian Society for the Study of
Contemporary History*

“And Then What Happened? Conceptualizing a
New Agenda for Holodomor and Post-Famine
Studies”

Session 1. Holodomor: The Dynamics of the Tragedy

Chair: George G. Grabowicz

*Dmytro Čyževs’kyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature,
Harvard University*

Papers:

Liudmyla Hrynevych

*Senior Research Fellow, Institute of History of
Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*
“The Holodomor in Time and Place: A Chronology”

Hennadii Yefimenko

*Senior Research Fellow, Institute of History of
Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*
“The Great Famine and the Nationalities Question”

Brian Boeck

Assistant Professor of History, DePaul University
“Complicating the National Interpretation of the
Famine: Reexamining the Case of Kuban”

Discussant: Nicolas Werth

*Research Director, National Center for Scientific
Research, Paris*

Monday, November 17, 2008

1:30–3:45 p.m.

Session 2. The Short-Term Consequences of the Holodomor: From Famine to War (1933–1939)

Chair: Terry Martin

*George F. Baker III Professor of Russian Studies,
Harvard University*

Papers:

Yuri Shapoval

*Head of Department of Ethnopolitics, Kuras Institute
of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of
Sciences of Ukraine*

“The Great Famine and Its Link with Repression in
Ukraine in 1933-34”

Stanislav Kulchytskyi

*Deputy Director, Institute of History of Ukraine,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*
“The Ukrainian Village after the Holodomor”

Hiroaki Kuromiya

Professor of History, Indiana University
“The Impact of the Famine on the City in Ukraine”

Alexander Babyonyshev (Sergei Maksudov)

*Center Associate, Davis Center for Russian and
Eurasian Studies, Harvard University*
“Dehumanization: Changes in Moral-Ethical
Consciousness in the Wake of the Famine”

Discussant: Oleg Khlevniuk

*Senior Research Fellow, State Archive of the Russian
Federation, Moscow*

Monday, November 17, 2008
4:00–6:00 p.m.

Session 3. The Mid-Term Aftermath of the Famine: The World War II Period

Chair: Mark Kramer

*Director, Cold War Studies Program, Harvard
University*

Papers:

Roman Wysocki

*Assistant Professor, Institute of History, Maria Curie-
Skłodowska University, Lublin*

“Reactions to the Famine in Poland and Its West
Ukrainian Regions”

Karel Berkhoff

*Researcher and Associate Professor, Center for
Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam*

“The Great Famine in Light of the German Invasion
and Occupation”

Oleksandra Veselova

*Senior Research Fellow, Institute of History of
Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*
“The Soviet Return and the Famine of 1946–47:
Complicating the Holodomor in Retrospect”

Discussant: Roman Serbyn

*Professor of History (Emeritus), University of Quebec
at Montreal*



8:00 p.m.

CONCERT

Premiere Performance of Selections from the
Opera **Red Earth (Hunger)** by Virko Baley
(with commentary by the composer)



Tuesday, November 18, 2008
9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Session 4. Population Losses and Demographic Impact

Chair: Lubomyr Hajda

*Associate Director, Ukrainian Research Institute,
Harvard University*

Papers:

Hennadii Boriak

*Head of Department of Historiography and Special
Historical Disciplines, Institute of History of Ukraine,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*
“Population Losses in the Holodomor: New Archival
Evidence”

Jacques Vallin

*Research Director, National Institute of Demographic
Studies, Paris*

“The Crisis of the 1930s: Population Losses in the
Aftermath of the Famine”

France Meslé

*Research Director, National Institute of Demographic
Studies, Paris*

“The Long-Term Demographic Impact of the
Holodomor”

Discussant: Oleh Wolowyna

President, Informed Decisions, Inc.

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
1:30–3:45 p.m.

Session 5. Long-Term Consequences: Society and Politics

Chair: Roman Szporluk

*Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History
(Emeritus), Harvard University*

Papers:

Valerii Vasylyev

*Senior Research Fellow, Institute of History of Ukraine,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*
“The Great Famine in the Eyes of the Soviet Ukrainian
Elite (1950s–1970s)”

Heorhii Kasianov

*Head of Department of Contemporary History and
Politics, Institute of History of Ukraine, National
Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*
“The Holodomor and the Politics of Memory since
the 1980s”

Volodymyr Dibrova

*Writer-in-Residence and Editor, Ukrainian Research
Institute; Preceptor, Department of Slavic Languages
and Literatures, Harvard University*
“The Holodomor and the Contemporary Ukrainian
Writer”

Discussant: George G. Grabowicz

*Dmytro Čyževs'kyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature,
Harvard University*

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
4:00–6:00 p.m.

Session 6. Roundtable Discussion

Chair: Serhii Plokhii

*Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History,
Harvard University*

Speakers:

Andrea Graziosi

Professor of History, University of Naples “Federico II”

Lubomyr Hajda

*Associate Director, Ukrainian Research Institute,
Harvard University*

Stanislav Kulchytskyi

*Deputy Director, Institute of History of Ukraine,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*

Timothy Snyder

Professor of History, Yale University

Roman Szporluk

*Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History
(Emeritus), Harvard University*

Felix Wemheuer

*Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies, University of
Vienna; Visiting Scholar, Fairbank Center for Chinese
Studies, Harvard University*

8:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Nicolas Werth

*Research Director, National Center for Scientific
Research, Paris*

Concluding Remarks

Andrea Graziosi

Professor of History, University of Naples “Federico II”

Michael S. Flier

*Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology;
Director, Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard
University*

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*Ukrainian Research Institute
Harvard University*

An International Conference

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17 – 18 November 2008



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