

SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE GERMAN-UKRAINIAN HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The Holodomor in Academic and Public Debates: Ukrainian and European Perspectives

17 – 18 September 2021 – Berlin

Deutsch-Ukrainische
Historikerkommission
Німецько-українська
комісія істориків

THE HOLODOMOR IN ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC DEBATES: UKRAINIAN AND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES

The Holodomor claimed an enormous number of victims and had a profound impact on the Ukrainian nation for generations. Among the mass crimes committed by the 20th century's totalitarian regimes, it undeniably holds a special place. And yet, with the exception of very few specialists, the Holodomor remains largely unknown to the German public. However, owing to a petition aiming at having the Holodomor formally recognized as a genocide by the German Bundestag, the topic has recently gained considerable political significance.

At its international conference, the German-Ukrainian Historical Commission aims to shed light on the question of the genocidal nature of the Holodomor from a historical and international law perspective. The Commission intends to stress specifically the circumstances that brought about, in 1948, the signing of the Genocide convention. Even though the Holodomor is not, in a strict sense of the term, a subject of debate in the history of German-Ukrainian relations, there are, in fact, some aspects that intertwine the history of Germany and the Germans with the Holodomor.

A German Mennonite minority in Ukraine, for instance, was hit hard by the great famine, and the Third Reich found the Holodomor a useful instrument of propaganda against the Soviet Union. Here, the Holodomor also appears as a global subject of colonial competition for resources. Even though the Holodomor is a very specific case, it can only be explained within the broader framework of a Soviet policy, that also affected non-Ukrainian regions such as Kazakhstan and the Volga region. A comparative perspective should allow us to find better explanations for the Holodomor's specifics. Finally, the memory of the Holodomor has a complex history in itself, including the remembrance by the affected families, as well as official politics of memory, and transnational memories of the Holodomor among Ukrainian emigrants.

CONFERENCE VENUE

Henry-Ford-Bau, Freie Universität Berlin,
Garystraße 35, 14195 Berlin

ACCOMMODATION

Seminaris CampusHotel Berlin, Takustraße 39,
14195 Berlin

COOPERATION PARTNERS

Holodomor Research and Education Center Ukraine



Institute for Eastern Europe (Osteuropainstitut)
at the Freie Universität Berlin

OSTEUROPA INSTITUT



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PROGRAM

FRIDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

10.00 – 12.00

Working session of the German-Ukrainian Historians' Commission

Members only – *hybrid*

12.00 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 13.45

Conference Opening

Welcome **Yaroslav Hrytsak** (L'viv, Ukraine), **Martin Schulze Wessel** (Munich, Germany), **Liudmyla Hrynevych** (Kyiv, Ukraine)

Panel 1

Holodomor and the Concept of Genocide I

Chair **Tanja Pentner** (Heidelberg, Germany)

13.45 – 15.15

Gennadi Poberezny (Garfield, USA): Raphael Lemkin and a Colonial Perspective on the Soviet Genocide in Ukraine
Martin Rohde (Innsbruck, Austria): A Memory of Numbers, or How the Imperial Counting of Ukrainians Influences Knowledge on Holodomor

Yevhen Matviishyn (L'viv, Ukraine): Population Loss in the Regions of Ukraine due to Child Mortality and Low Birth Rates during the Holodomor – *online*

Comment **Miloš Řezník** (Warsaw, Poland)

15.15 – 15.45

Discussion

15.45 – 16.00

Coffee Break

Panel 2

Holodomor and the Concept of Genocide II

Chair **Anna Veronika Wendland** (Marburg, Germany)

16.00 – 17.00

Bohdan Klid (Edmonton, Canada): Grain Requisitions and the Rise of Nationalism on the Eve of and During the Famine of 1932 – 33 in Ukraine (Holodomor) – *online*

Liudmyla Hrynevych (Kyiv, Ukraine): All-Soviet Hunger 1931 – 1933 and the Ukrainian Holodomor: New Interpretations (in cooperation with the “Holodomor Research and Education Center Ukraine”) – *online*

Comment **Frank Sysyn** (Toronto, Canada) – *online*

17.00 – 17.30

Discussion

17:30 – 18:45

Dinner

Keynote Speech

Chair **Yaroslav Hrytsak** (L'viv, Ukraine)

19.00 – 19.45

Andrea Graziosi (Naples, Italy): Famines and Genocides: a Global Perspective

19.45 – 20.30

Discussion

SATURDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2021

Panel 3

International Reactions to the Holodomor

Chair **Gelinada Grinchenko** (Kharkiv, Ukraine)

9.00 – 10.30

Andrii Kudriachenko (Kyiv, Ukraine): Socio-Political Dimensions of the Holodomor 1932 – 1933 (on the Archive Materials of German Diplomatic Institutions in Ukraine)

Iryna Sydun (Odesa, Ukraine): The Role of Ukrainian Journalists in the USA in Supporting Their Countrymen during the Holodomor in Ukraine 1932 – 1933 (on Materials from the “Svoboda” Newspaper) – *online*

Andreas Kappeler (Vienna, Austria): Reactions of the Austrian Press to the Holodomor

Comment Polina Barvinska (Odesa, Ukraine)

10.30 – 11.00

Discussion

11.00 – 11.15

Coffee Break

Panel 4

Holodomor and the Second World War

Chair **Kai Struve** (Halle, Germany)

11.15 – 12.45

Oleksandr Lysenko (Kyiv, Ukraine): The Reception of the Holodomor in the Periodical Press of Occupied Ukraine during the Second World War – *online*

Vladyslav Hrynevych (Kyiv, Ukraine): The Holodomor in the Policy of Stalin’s and Hitler’s Totalitarian Regimes and in the Consciousness of the Ukrainian Society during the Second World War – *online*

Ihor Shchupak (Dnipro, Ukraine): The Holodomor among the Jews of Ukraine and the Echo of the Genocide during the Holocaust: Destruction and Rescue of People in the Context of Ukrainian-Jewish Relations – *online*

Comment **Yuri Shapoval** (Kyiv, Ukraine) – *online*

12.45 – 13.15

Discussion

13.15 – 14.30

Lunch

Panel 5

Holodomor in Historiography and History Politics

Chair **Martin Schulze Wessel** (Munich, Germany)

14.30 – 15.30

Viachaslau Menkouski (Minsk, Belarus): Ukrainian Famine of 1932 – 1933: Historiography, Historical Memory and Historical Policy in Central and Eastern Europe – *online*

Maria Kovalchuk (Munich, Germany): The Holodomor in German Textbooks: Analyzing Changes in Representation during the last 20 years

Comment **Yaroslav Hrytsak** (L'viv, Ukraine)

15.30 – 16.00

Discussion

16.00 – 16.15

Coffee Break

Panel 6

Holodomor in Memory Cultures

Chair **Guido Hausmann** (Regensburg, Germany)

16.15 – 17.15

Frank Sysyn (Toronto, Canada): Memorialization and Sacralization of the Holodomor (Great Famine): The Role of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA – *online*

Heidrun Mühlbradt (Göttingen, Germany): The Great Irish Famine and the Holodomor. A Comparison of Memory Cultures

Comment **Ricarda Vulpius** (Berlin, Germany)

17.15 – 18.00

Concluding discussion

18.00 – 19.15

Dinner

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