

**PART 1**  
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**



*Sunflowers* by Nadia Werbitzky (1922-2005)

# Free Resources

# Two Regimes FILM



***“Two Regimes - Two Genocides”***

**Available to ALL educational institutions for no charge.**

**This film may be requested at:**

**[www.TwoRegimes.com/Film](http://www.TwoRegimes.com/Film)**

**FREE Film Study Guide is available at:**

**[www.TwoRegimes.com/study-guide](http://www.TwoRegimes.com/study-guide)**

## **The Two Regimes Film**

**Film Title:** *“Two Regimes – Two Genocides”*

**Directed by:** Douglas Darlington of Winding Road Films

**Log Line:** A Ukrainian mother, Teodora, tells her story of life under Stalin and Hitler in **Mariupol, Ukraine** as she and her daughters witness two genocides: the Holodomor (man-made Famine 1932-33 under Stalin) and the Holocaust (1933-1945 under Hitler) in a Reader’s Theater enhanced style format film.

**Cost:** **FREE** to all Educational Institutions.

**Demo:** See a 6-minute sample of the film at [www.TwoRegimes.com/school-film](http://www.TwoRegimes.com/school-film)

**Duration:** 33-minutes

**Includes:** 9 selections of music were created in the Nazi labor and concentration camps, this music was provided by Maestro Francesco Lotoro of Italy and “Melody” from famous Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk.

**Includes:** 24 paintings by Nadia Werbitzky, professional artist and daughter of the author, Teodora Verbitskaya.

**Includes:** Over 100 historical photographs.

## About Two Regimes

Two Regimes is the life’s work of two Ukrainian women: a mother, Teodora Verbitskaya (author) and her daughter, Nadia Werbitzky (professional artist). Teodora wrote about her family’s life from 1927 to 1945 while living in Mariupol, Soviet Ukraine under the two regimes of Stalin and Hitler. Daughter, Nadia, painted from memory. Mother and daughter were survivors and witnesses of two genocides: the [Holodomor](#) (man-made Famine 1932-33 under Stalin) and the [Holocaust](#) (1933-1945 under Hitler).

**Visit [www.TwoRegimes.com](http://www.TwoRegimes.com) for additional resources**

Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and The Foundation for Leon County Schools.

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# Copyright Acknowledgments

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***Where Are The Children?***

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# Acknowledgments

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## For the film “Two Regimes – Two Genocides”

### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

Film Flyer  
Copyright Acknowledgments  
Contributors  
Foreword by Professor Alexander Motyl  
Film Synopsis of Two Regimes – Two Genocides by Diane Whitney

### **PART 2: HOLODOMOR**

Poem – *Above the Bitter Wind* by Guy DiMatteo  
Holodomor Definitions provided by Holodomor Research and Education Consortium  
Holodomor Vocabulary- by Doris Duzyj  
Background to Ukraine - by Orest Zakydalsky  
Holodomor At A Glance provided by Two Regimes  
Holodomor 1932-1933 by Valentina Kuryliw  
Holodomor Timeline –by Valentina Kuryliw

### **PART 3: HOLOCAUST**

Poem – *Where are the Children?* By Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff  
Holocaust Definitions provided by Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff  
Holocaust Vocabulary - Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff and Dr. Anita Meyer Meinbach  
Holocaust at a Glance– Provided by Two Regimes  
History of the Holocaust – An Overview by Dr. Michael Berenbaum  
Timeline – Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff and Dr. Anita Meyer Meinbach

### **PART 4: VIEWING THE FILM “TWO REGIMES – TWO GENOCIDES”**

Pre-discussion activities before watching the film.  
Primary and Secondary questions  
College, Career and Civics (C3) Social Studies Framework Dimension Questions  
Holodomor viewed Questions by Doris Duzyj, Svitlana Jaroszynski and Nadiia Ozerovz  
Holocaust viewed Questions by Ivy Schamis, and Eleasha Milicevic

### **PART 5: HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES**

Holodomor at a Glance page – Questions by Susie Lowry  
Questions for “**Holodomor 1932-1933**” by Susie Lowry  
(For Teachers - Questions and Answers for “**Holodomor 1932-1933**” by Susie Lowey)  
Questions for the **Holocaust** “Historical Overview” by Susie Lowry  
Holocaust at a Glance – Questions by Susie Lowry  
(For Teachers - Questions and Answers for the Holocaust “Historical Overview” by Susie Lowey)

### **PART 6: ART**

Paired Paintings  
Middle School Organizer for Paired Paintings  
High School – O-P-T-I-C for Paired Paintings  
Nadia Werbitzky paintings in the film  
Paired Photographs

### **PART 7: MUSIC**

Musician - Ukrainian  
Musicians - Jewish  
Film Cut Sheet

### **PART 8: CULMINATING ACTIVITIES AND SUGGESTIONS**

Culminating Activities for Two Regimes

### **PART 9: SOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Holodomor resources  
Holocaust resources

*Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and The Foundation for Leon County Schools*

## Foreword

Alexander J. Motyl  
Professor of Political Science  
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1. The film, *Two Regimes - Two Genocides*, is an exceptionally welcome voice in the literature on and documentation of the Holocaust and Holodomor. Winding Road Films Director Doug Darlington's presentation of over 100 historical photographs and vintage military film footage resonates hauntingly with a soundtrack consisting of the music created by actual prisoners in labor and concentration camps between 1933 and 1953—and brilliantly recreated by Italian Maestro Francesco Lotoro.
2. Darlington's film is based on Teodora Verbitskaya's remarkable written memoir. The unvarnished directness of Verbitskaya's observations enable readers to acquire a glimpse into her reality and, thus, to empathize with her and her family. But Verbitskaya's having experienced and survived the Holodomor, the Holocaust, and World War II also make the memoir a microcosm of Ukraine's horrific twentieth-century encounter with mass violence and a useful reminder that the regimes responsible for the Holodomor and the Holocaust bear some striking similarities.

### Ukraine as Bloodland

3. We often forget that less than 200 years ago Ukraine's population consisted primarily of illiterate peasant serfs, whose lives were little different from those of American slaves. The twentieth century was especially unkind to them. First came seven years of world war, revolution, and civil war. Then came famine, terror, and genocide. But the real troubles began in 1939-1941, when Adolf Hitler unleashed a genocidal war and transformed Ukraine into a colony whose subject populations—both Jews and Ukrainians—were slated for extermination. After peace returned in 1945, another eight years of famine, terror, and repression followed.
4. Ukraine experienced some 40 consecutive years of relentless death and destruction, starting in 1914 and ending with Stalin's death in 1953. According to a study of the Moscow-based Institute of Demography, Ukraine suffered close to 15 million "excess deaths" between 1914 and 1948. Consider the horrifying numbers:
  - 1.3 million during World War I (1914-1918),
  - 2.3 million during the Civil War (1917-1921), the Polish-Soviet War (1918-1921), and the famine of the early 1920s (1921- 1922),
  - 4.0 million during the Holodomor (1932-1933),
  - 300,000 during the Great Terror and the repressions in Western Ukraine (late 1930's),
  - 6.5 million during World War II, when Nazi Germany treated Jews, Gypsies, and Slavs as brutes and subhumans (1941-1945), and
  - 400,000 during the post-war famine and the destruction of the Ukrainian nationalist movement (1945-1948).

### Revolution and empire in Nazi Germany

5. The Holocaust was the consequence of the coming to power in Germany of a revolutionary party, the Nazis, with unabashedly imperialist goals. The Nazis aimed to transform Germany from top to bottom, desiring nothing less than a completely new Germany populated by new Germans. They also sought to extend German control over Europe in general and Eastern Europe in particular—the mostly Slavic territories that



## Foreword

were to serve as *Lebensraum* (living space) for German colonists. Like many revolutionaries, the Nazis killed their opponents or locked them up in concentration camps, imposed a totalitarian regime on Germany, and proceeded to remove undesirable elements from Nazi society—homosexuals, cripples, Slavic *Untermenschen* (subhumans), Roma (Gypsies), and above all Jews.

6. Once the Nazis initiated war—against Poland in 1939, Western Europe in 1940, and the Soviet Union, which had willingly helped them destroy Poland, in 1941—they embarked on empire building and could expand their revolutionary goals to the occupied territories. Nazi opponents in these territories were all those who either actively resisted Nazi ideological goals or were incompatible with them. Democrats, nationalists, and communists resisted and had to be killed. Impure nations such as Jews and Roma were targeted for immediate destruction, while Polish, Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Russian *Untermenschen* were slated for exploitation to be followed by extermination. Nazi Germany was thus a genocidal regime that perpetrated multiple genocides—above all against Jews, but also against the Roma and the Slavs.

## Revolution and empire in Stalin's USSR

7. Like Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union was a revolutionary regime with imperialist goals. Like the Nazis, the Bolsheviks aspired radically to transform the lands they had seized in a series of military campaigns in 1918-1921. They got their chance in the late 1920s, when Joseph Stalin became undisputed leader and embarked on a “revolution from above” that would change every dimension of life. Industry would be created from scratch, the countryside would be collectivized, and empire would be consolidated.
8. Like the Nazis, the Bolsheviks were violent and brooked no opposition. They killed their opponents and packed off millions to die in concentration camps. As with the Nazis, Stalin's opponents were all those who either actively resisted Soviet ideological goals or were incompatible with them. Obstreperous classes, such as the more prosperous peasants, had to be eliminated; obstreperous nations that stood in the way of Moscow's totalitarian ambitions and imperial rule—such as Ukrainians—had to be crushed. Like Hitler's, Stalin's regime practiced genocide as part and parcel of its policies toward its subject populations. Unsurprisingly, well over 20 million non-Russians and Russians were shot, starved, or worked to death.
9. It is easy to become jaded by such fantastic numbers. Fortunately, Teodora Verbitskaya reminds us that these people were just like us. It is to her everlasting credit that she gives life to the millions of Jews, Ukrainians, and others who fell victim to Stalin and Hitler and their two murderous regimes.
10. Two Regimes materials are intended to broaden our knowledge of these horrific, world-changing events. They provide a platform for discussing how and why genocides have occurred and why they may still occur anywhere in the world. Understanding others and their history is the first step toward changing the world.

## Film Synopsis

### TWO REGIMES - TWO GENOCIDES

#### Film Synopsis by Diane Whitney

Viewing the film version of the memoir of Teodora Verbitskaya, it is almost impossible to conceive of the situation she describes to us. Filling the screen as she speaks are vivid images painted by her daughter, Nadia. The bright colors contrast with the intensely sad developments that she is describing. I am simultaneously intrigued and mystified. How could a place so beautiful and a people so strong be victimized in such a way?

The report of Stalin's malicious campaign against what Stalin and his cohorts perceived as the remnants of the bourgeoisie is shown through historical photos as well as through Nadia's paintings. In the midst of the chaos and disorganization filling their world, Teodora and Dimitri, along with their two children, survived the harsh winter in an abandoned hut, burning horse dung for heat. As the doctrine of Collectivism permeated the economy, farmers were forced to surrender their livestock to the government and the land became unusable for private agriculture. Dimitri could not find work and was eventually sent to prison for six years for anti-government comments he had made earlier. Teodora was left to fend for herself and her two young daughters. Her strength and adaptability were shown in her finding abandoned homes to live in and the occasional odd job, which was necessary for their survival. It is her calm recounting of what she had to do to keep them together that is repeatedly moving.

Teodora takes us on a journey from the snow-covered steppes of Man'kova to the towns of Pereprava and Mariupol. Stalinist measures became crueler as Stalin took total control of the animals and land needed by the people for their survival. Citizens of varied nationalities were arrested without warning and forced into trucks and taken to work camps. Dimitri was with them for a short time but was included among those many people who were swept up and taken away. Teodora and the girls would not see him again.

The German takeover of Poland forced all citizens, including Ukrainians such as Teodora and her daughters, to work digging ditches. Those same ditches would later be used to hold the bodies of thousands of Jews executed by the Nazis. The life of Teodora, Nadia and Lyucia became a series of camp settings for four years.

After the battle of Stalingrad, the Allies succeeded in defeating the Third Reich. Liberation would come as a welcome surprise to those waiting for liberation.

**TWO REGIMES - TWO GENOCIDES** is a narrative of a woman's courage, persistence, and survival. Moreover, it is a tribute to the human spirit.