

Holodomor Student Vocabulary

Two Regimes: A Mother's Memoir of the Holodomor and Holocaust

Student Vocabulary for Understanding

Authoritarian – Characterized by or favoring absolute obedience to authority, as against individual Freedom; an authoritarian regime.

Collective Farm - A jointly operated group of several farms, especially one owned by the government

Collectivization – To organize (an economy, industry, or enterprise) on the basis of collectivism. The principles or system of ownership and control of the means of production and distribution by the people collectively, usually under the supervision of a government.

Communism – A system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single, often authoritarian party holds power.

Deportation – Action of deporting a foreigner from a country.

Despotism – A government or political system in which the ruler exercises absolute power.

Dictator – One holding complete autocratic control; one ruling absolutely and often oppressively.

Displaced Person – One who has been driven from one's homeland by war or internal upheaval.

Dissident – One who disagrees, disagreeing especially with an established religious or political system, organization or belief.

Expropriation – To deprive of possession, the action of the state in taking or modifying the property rights of an individual in the exercise of its sovereignty

Food ration cards – A card issued by the government to allow the holder to obtain food or other commodities that are in short supply

Genocide – The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political or cultural group.

GPU – The Soviet secret police which was succeeded by the NKVD and eventually the KGB. All Soviet internal security systems were ruthless.

Grain elevator – A facility designed to stockpile or store grain.

Gulag – A network of forced labor camps or prisons in the former Soviet Union, especially for political dissidents; a place or situation of great suffering and hardship likened to the atmosphere in a prison system or a forced labor camp

Hitler – Adolph Hitler was dictator of Germany from 1933-1945, leader of the Nazi party.

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Holodomor – Combination of two Ukrainian words: “holod” meaning hunger, famine, starvation and the verb “moryty” which means to waste, debilitate, exhaust or kill. Refers specifically to the forced famine genocide of 7-10 million people in 1932/1933 in Ukraine.

Kuban region. A region on the eastern coast of the Sea of Azov.

Kulak (kurkul in Ukrainian) – Russian word for a farmer characterized by Communists as having excessive wealth; independent landowner in Ukraine. Targeted as enemies of the state by Stalin.

Lenin – Vladimir Lenin was a Russian revolutionary, first head of the government of Soviet Russia from 1917-1924 and the Soviet Union from 1922-1924.

Mariupol. A city in Ukraine on the Sea of Azov.

ration cards. Because of extreme shortages of consumer goods and food, Soviet citizens were issued cards that allowed them a small, fixed amount of goods. They presented their cards at state stores to receive their allotment.

Siberia. A vast desolate and remote area of Russia

Slave labor camp – A prison camp where forced labor is performed.

Stalin - Joseph Stalin was a Soviet political leader who governed the Soviet Union from 1924-1953.

Steppes – A large area of flat unforested grassland in southeastern Europe or Siberia.

Totalitarian - Relating to a system of government that is centralized and dictatorial, requiring complete subservience to the state.