

PART 5
History/Social Studies



Bridge to Home by Nadia Werbitzky (1922-2005)

Holodomor at a Glance Page

Questions

1. How is “Holodomor” defined in the text?
2. What did the Soviets have to gain from seizing control of Ukraine?
3. Why do you think so many educated Ukrainians were put on trial during the Holodomor?
4. Why do you think the Orthodox Churches and church leaders were attacked?
5. Why do you think the segment called the Third Attack on the Farmers was called an attack on “the Spirit?”
6. What possible reason would the Soviet government have for preventing starving people from leaving Ukraine?
7. What do you believe the author’s purpose is for providing this text to readers? On what do you base your response?

Questions on the Holodomor Text

The Holodomor 1932-33

By Valentina Kuryliw

Introduction

1. **Define Holodomor.**
2. **How was this tragedy hidden for more than five decades?**
3. **What information was uncovered in Soviet Archives in 1991?**

Historical Background

4. **What events set Ukraine up for victimization from its oppressors?**

Lead-up to the Genocidal Famine

5. **What issues did Stalin appear to have against the successes of Ukraine?**
6. **What actions did Stalin take?**
7. **What happened to those farmers who revolted?**

Implementing the Holodomor

8. **What were the major developments that occurred in 1932 and 1933?**
9. **What were the causes of so many deaths of farmers and their families at that time?**
10. **What was ironic about what happened to Soviet grain in 1932 as so many Ukrainian farmers starved to death?**
11. **What fate was suffered by so many Ukrainian political leaders?**
12. **What important change occurred in the summer of 1933?**

Causes

13. **How did the USSR attempt to rationalize the deaths of so many Ukrainians due to starvation?**
14. **How does another school of historians refute this USSR claim?**

Nationalities Policy

15. **How was indigenization (*korenizatsiia*) in addition to the economy of the time a cause for the Holodomor?**
16. **In Stalin's second quote from the text, why do you think he used the phrase, "the national question is a peasant question?"**

Reaction to the Ukrainian Genocidal Famine

17. **A. In Paragraphs 12 to 14, in what different ways was the Holodomor reported? B. Why do you think that the reports differed?**
18. **Even though Soviet governments would not acknowledge the Holodomor, what evidence proved that Ukraine was targeted for destruction as a nation?**
19. **Why is it important that the Holodomor be commemorated worldwide?**

Foreword by Professor Motyl - Questions by Susie Lowry

1. What is the subject of this text, based upon what you read in paragraphs 1 and 2?
2. What did Verbitskaya survive, in addition to WWII?
3. In paragraph 3, why do you think that the writer compared the lives of Ukrainian serfs to American slaves?
4. What does the writer report about Hitler's actions in Ukraine from 1939-41 and even after 1945?
5. What words come to mind when you read the word, "Colony?" How does that word appear to be used in paragraph 3?
6. What do you think the author's purpose was to break down the figure of "15,000 excess deaths" in the bulleted information following paragraph 4?
7. What types of words/language are used in paragraph 4 to demonstrate the tone of this paragraph and bulleted information?
8. What people could the writer be referring to with the term *Untermenschen* (subhuman)?
9. What groups were listed as targeted victims in paragraphs 5 and 6?
10. Who was the Bolshevik leader? What are the three parts of the "revolution from above?" How is this term ironic?
11. Define the term, **obstreperous**. Why do you think Bolshevik leaders used this term to describe the classes and nations associated with the term in paragraph 8?
12. Why does the author describe specific ways that Russians and non-Russians were killed in paragraph 8 instead of writing that they were just killed?

13. The writer states the purpose of the study materials in *Two Regimes*. Is this study valid in today's society? Why or why not?

Holocaust at a Glance Document

Questions

1. How is the term “Holocaust” defined in the text? Why do you think the author included the Israeli term for this time in history?
2. According to the text, why did feelings of antisemitism start to develop in Germany?
3. What ideas seem to be inferred by the words used in the policy called “The Final Solution to the Jewish Problem?”
4. What two main methods of killing Jews are listed in this text?
5. Who, in addition to the Nazis, was responsible for deaths of Jews and others during the Holocaust?
6. Examine and compare the two maps. What information does the map on the left provide?
7. Examine the map on the right. What developed as a result of the action shown on the map on the left?
8. Are you surprised at what you notice? Why or why not? Is this type of action possible today? Explain.

Questions for Holocaust “Historical Overview”

by Dr. Michael Berenbaum

Introduction (*this section has no heading*) Paragraphs 1-7

1. In paragraphs 1 and 2, Berenbaum uses words and definitions to describe the term, Holocaust. What are the words, and how do they describe what the Holocaust meant to different groups?
2. A. What groups were listed as victims of the Holocaust? B. Why is this significant?

Why Jews?

3. When did Antisemitism appear?
4. In paragraphs 9-12, why do you think that political antisemitism developed? On what evidence do you base your response?
5. What influenced Hitler to take action against Jews? What was the result?

Nazi Persecution

6. How was the Nuremberg Legislation of 1935 so detrimental to Jews living in Germany?
7. Describe the process used by the Nazis to attempt to eliminate Jews from society.
8. A. Why do you think Hitler ordered “mercy killings?” B. Why is this term a misnomer?

Ghettoization and War

9. What was the purpose of ghettos and transit camps?
10. Paragraph 27 describes Nazi acquisition of additional countries and territories. In paragraph 28, why were Jews unable to immigrate to friendlier places?

Implementation and the Final Solution: *Einsatzgruppen*

11. What was the “Final Solution to the Jewish Problem,” and how was it carried out, according to paragraph 30?
12. Who murdered the Jews, according to paragraphs 33 and 34?

From *Einsatzgruppen* to Death Camps

13. What purpose did railroads serve in the killing process?
14. What period of time did it take for death camps to complete the elimination of most of the Jews?
15. Although the text lists five camps where millions were murdered, Berenbaum’s research points to how many possible death/slave labor/concentration camps during the Holocaust?
16. Paragraphs 39 to 41 include what happened to victims in death camps. Why would the author include these acts in his text?
17. Why do you think the elimination process of Jews in Hungary went so quickly when in Germany it took 12 years?

World War II and the War Against the Jews

18. A. What was the purpose of death marches? B. What struggle did these marches present for the Nazis? C. For the Jews who were involved?

Resistance

Questions for Holocaust “Historical Overview”

19. How were some Jews able to fight back against the Nazis?

20. A. What obstacles made resistance difficult? B. Even so, why did some Jews fight back?

Liberation and its Aftermath

21. Why did most Jews find that going home was difficult? What did they often do instead?

22. What was the purpose of the Nuremberg Trials?

23. Explain the purpose of the Genocide Convention. What important declaration followed the adoption of this convention?

24. How has “the world” tried to change as a result of the Holocaust?

25. What struggles have Holocaust survivors faced, according to paragraphs 58-60? How must they view life after the Holocaust?

What is the Role of Holocaust Memory in the Contemporary World?

26. Define relativism.

27. Why does Berenbaum call the Holocaust “the nuclear bomb of moral epithets?”

28. To whom does he refer when he uses the term “parochial community?”

29. In Paragraph 64, why do you think all the people listed are unable to answer the question, “Why?”