

Who were the Kulaks?

- a peasant in Russia wealthy enough to own a farm and hire labor.
- Emerging after the emancipation of serfs in the 19th century the kulaks resisted Stalin's forced collectivization
- Many of these people lived in the area of Ukraine



Holodomor (1932-33)

- Means “killing by hunger”
- Kulaks, who primarily existed in Ukraine at the time, began resisting collectivization.
- Fearing that the Kulaks could derail his 5 year plan, Stalin blacklisted many Ukrainian towns. Peasants were forbidden to leave the Ukrainian republic in search of food.
- Despite growing starvation, food requisitions were increased and aid was not provided in sufficient quantities.
- The crisis reached its peak in the winter of 1932–33, when organized groups of police and communist apparatchiks ransacked the homes of peasants and took everything edible

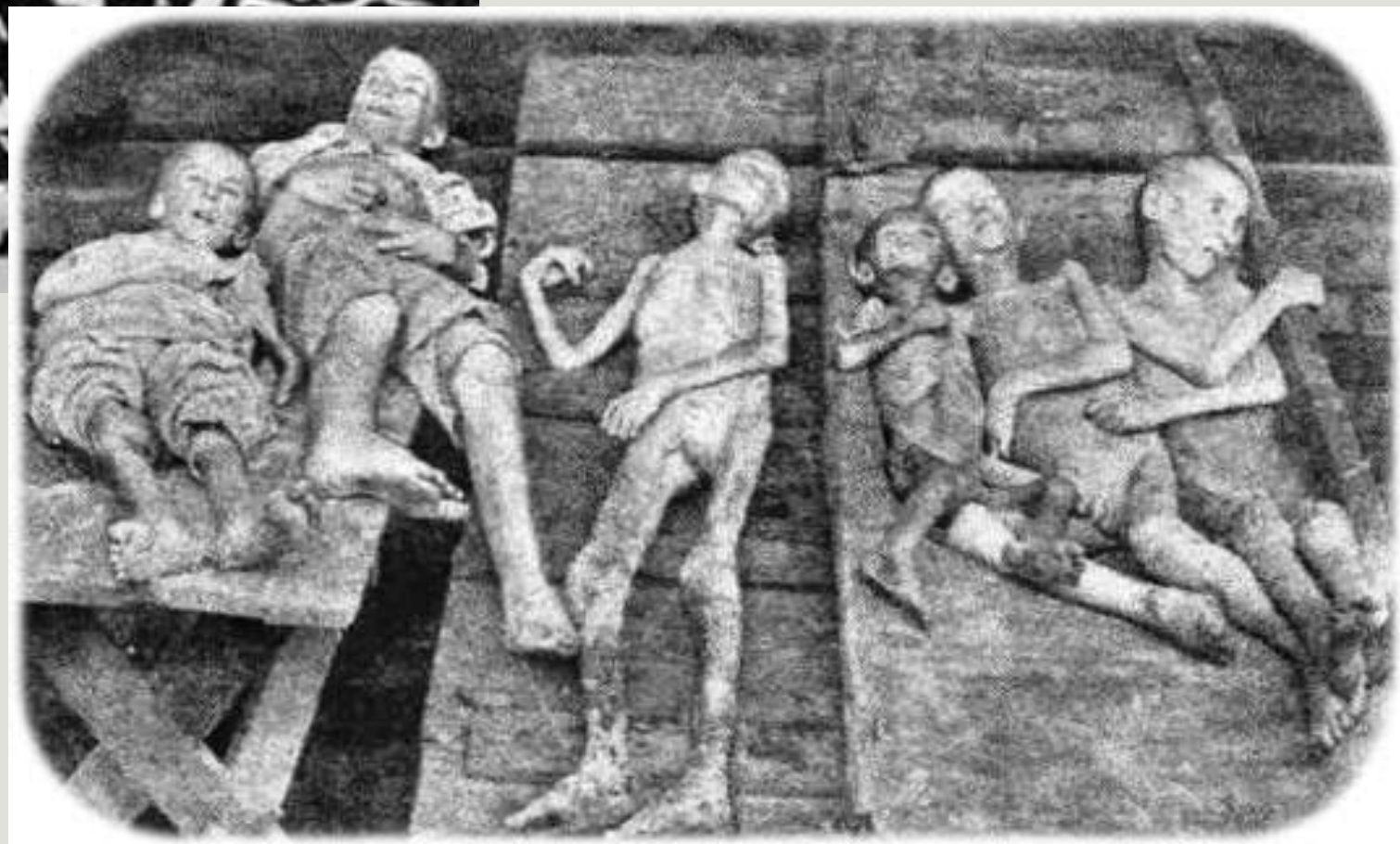
Holodomor

- Moscow then requires a quota round up/deportation/execution of “kulaks” on top of this
 - At this point kulak means anyone the gov’t doesn’t like
- Starving begins in cities with bread lines; spreads to country
- 6-7 million die (some death tolls up to 10 million)
- Denied by USSR



WARNING**

GRAPHIC PHOTOS







Death by Starvation

"People crawled into wheat fields to eat ears of wheat before dropping dead. They died from hunger in the act of eating. Children collapsed and died during lessons.

A mother took the bread from her offspring to feed her husband (she could, she said, always have more kids, but she could only ever have one husband).

A couple put their children in a deep hole and left them there, in order not to watch them die.

A father strangled his own children rather than watch them perish from hunger. "

Answer the following questions:

1. From the reading, in what different ways did people in Ukraine respond to the Famine? What did people do to try and survive?
2. Why do you think Stalin would let this happen?
3. Do you think this starvation was purposeful? If so, why?

Is it a Genocide?

- gen·o·cide

noun

- the **deliberate** killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.
- **Many argued that the starvation in Ukraine was not intentional, but a bi-product of the 5 year plan**

Components of a Genocide

Stage	Characteristics
1. Classification	People are divided into "us and them".
2. Symbolization	"When combined with hatred, symbols may be forced upon unwilling members of pariah groups..."
3. Dehumanization	"One group denies the humanity of the other group. Members of it are equated with animals, vermin, insects, or diseases."
4. Organization	"Genocide is always organized... Special army units or militias are often trained and armed..."
5. Polarization	"Hate groups broadcast polarizing propaganda..."
6. Preparation	"Victims are identified and separated out because of their ethnic or religious identity..."
7. Extermination	"It is 'extermination' to the killers because they do not believe their victims to be fully human".
8. Denial	"The perpetrators... deny that they committed any crimes..."