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THE FAMINE AS A SPECIFIC INSTRUMENT OF THE TOTALITARIAN REGIME AND OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

The Famine is deliberately organized by the Soviet Union authority in 1932-1933 years as an artificial famine, which led to death of millions of the Ukrainians and to the genocide of the Ukrainian people. In the history of the stormy XX-th century, the Famine of 1932-1933 years was the second mass deliberate famine in Ukraine.

The **aim** of the following theses is to study and to analyze the scale of the tragedy caused to the Soviet Ukrainian Republic by the Famine of the 1932-1933 years. The research also proves the contribution of the Soviet Union's totalitarian system to the genocide of the Ukrainian people.

Stalin's "big leap" cost to Ukrainian people too much. Taking into account that since January to November of 1930 the peasant sector of Ukraine gave to the state 400 million poods of grain, and for the same period of 1931 year the number was 380 million of poods. For the period of 1929-1932 years the quantity of cattle in the Ukrainian Republic decreased by 41.8%, horses by 33.3%, pigs by 62.3 %, sheep by 74% [6, p. 129].

The non-fulfillment of the Moscow's procurement plan on the grain supplies was considered as a counteraction to Soviet authority, and as aimed at breaking the plans of the Soviet Union construction. The non-fulfillment of the grain supplies by Ukraine was assessed as a subversion of class enemies. As a result Stalin ordered to apply hard measures to the Ukrainian Republic.

In the autumn of 1932, an extraordinary commission headed by V. Molotov arrived in Ukraine, which transferred the republic to emergency state. Into the process of "knocking out" the Ukrainian grain from the peasants, the NKVD departments, the communist army, the organization of Soviet Komsomol and the trade union activists were involved. The Ukrainian villages destroyed by Stalin's experiments could supply the state only with 89.5 million pounds of grain (during November 1932 - January 1933 years), instead of planned 131 million pounds. The commission headed by V. Molotov, subjected to the influence of the Party and the state's leader, took on an extraordinary initiative – to remove bread at any price. The main repressive measure was the requisition of grain, food and feed stock of the collective farms. Common practice was to impose fines on villages: meat, potatoes and other agricultural products were withdrawn [3, c. 97].

As in the period of continuous collectivization, competition between various Soviet Republics and Party officials was launched to increase grain supplies. In search of grain, Party executors searched every house, ripped the floor, climbed into basements and even wells. The army and the NKVD deprived the peasants of the entire foodstuff; they took not only grain, but also other food: potatoes, fat, beets, pickles and even crackers. The grain campaign in fact became a deliberate and brutal physical and moral extermination of the peasant population.

The Ukrainian villages faced the cruel reality of Stalin's revolution (the Famine affected the main agricultural areas of the Soviet Union). People were dying with all their families and even villages. There are records of terrible cases of inhumanity and torture. Parents, trying to save children from starvation, took them to the cities and abandoned them near institutions, hospitals or just at the streets.

On December 14, 1932, "the commander-in-chief", "the inspirer and organizer of all the victories", J. Stalin, joined the play. Under his command, an operational meeting was held in Moscow. The members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, of the Regional Committee of the North Caucasus and of the Regional Committee of the Western region were summoned there. In fact, the Western area appeared clearly to hide the anti-Ukrainian direction of the campaign. According to the Decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU (Bolshevik) on the matter of grain procurement in Ukraine, in the North Caucasus and in the Western region, the participation of the West region was limited to a simple indication of completing the grain harvest plan until January 1, 1933 and the plan for harvesting flax until February 1, 1933 [1, c. 12].

The grain campaign in Ukraine lasted even till February 1933. Till that time some villages had almost extinguished from starvation, and the peasants were trying to seek salvation in other villages, but that was practically impossible to do. The Soviet repressive machine was activated to eliminate the most desperate peasants' movements as the army units and parts of the NKVD blocked areas affected by starvation, preventing the population from escaping.

In the midst of the Famine, the Law "On the protection of property of state enterprises, collective farms and on cooperation and strengthening of social (socialist) property" was adopted. The Law, adopted on August 7, 1932, stated that "the highest measure of social protection" was imposed on an individual for stealing collective farm's property. Under the Law anyone, even a child, caught taking even a bit of produce from a collective field (e.g., "the Law of five ears of corn"), could be shot or imprisoned for stealing "socialist property."

In December 1932 a system of internal passports was introduced in the USSR, but only for the population of cities and new settlements. The peasants were forcibly bound to the land, as it was before the reform of 1861 in the Russian Empire [2, c.482-487].

In January 1933, mass starvation became unprecedented. However, from the rostrum of the joint plenum of the Central Committee and the Central Committee of the CPSU, J. Stalin, stated: "We undoubtedly have achieved that the material situation of workers and peasants is improving year by year. And only sworn enemies of Soviet Union can doubt it". The Kremlin dictator treated the "Holodomor" as an unreal phenomenon. When Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine R. Terekhov appealed to J. Stalin for help, he said hastily: "We are informed about your, Comrade Terekhov, skills of a good speaker. But it turned out that you are a good storyteller. They made a story about hunger, they thought we would be intimidating – it would not work! You would better leave the post of the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine and the Kharkiv Regional Committee and change your occupation for storyteller. You will write stupid stories and the stupid ones will read them". Because of the non-recognition of the Famine by the Soviet Union Authorities Ukraine was not provided with the international assistance.

Trying to avoid tragedy, the Kremlin was forced to decrease the accelerated pace of industrialization and the increased pressure on the peasants. During the spring field campaign, the collective farms were supplied with some foodstuff to feed those who worked there. As S. Kosior wrote in a letter to J. Stalin, “the collective farms gradually began to come out of the crisis” [5, c. 56].

At the end of the 1930s, Ukrainian agriculture came to the level that had been before the collectivization started. The collective farm system became one of the mechanisms of the bureaucratic economy and the authoritarian regime. Forcible collectivization, dispossession, and the Famine had unpredictable consequences for Ukraine. All the following years, the Soviet Union and Soviet Ukraine experienced a terrible burden of the past, they were not able to eliminate food shortages and provide people with decent food [4, c. 345].

Conclusion: The most horrible crime of the Soviet totalitarian system was the Famine of the 1932-1933 years, which physically and morally destroyed the generation of Ukraine. The devastation of its consequences is still felt.

The Famine of the 1932-1933 years was not a casual phenomenon of natural or social origin, but as a result of the deliberately caused hunger by the totalitarian power of terror, that is genocide. The massive physical extermination of farmers by the artificial famine was a deliberate terroristic act of the Stalinist political system against civilians, against the Ukrainians as a nation and against peasants as a class. As a result, not only numerous layers of wealthy and independent peasant entrepreneurs, but also whole generations of the agricultural population disappeared. The social foundations of the nation, its traditions, spiritual culture and identity were undermined. The main purpose of the organization of the artificial famine was to undermine the social base of resistance of the Ukrainians to communist rule and to ensure total control of all segments of the population by the state authority.

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