

Event cards

The communist Soviet Union took over Ukraine. Collectivisation began under Lenin's 'co-operative plan'.



(Lenin Speaks, by Grigory Petrovich Goldstein, public domain)

1922

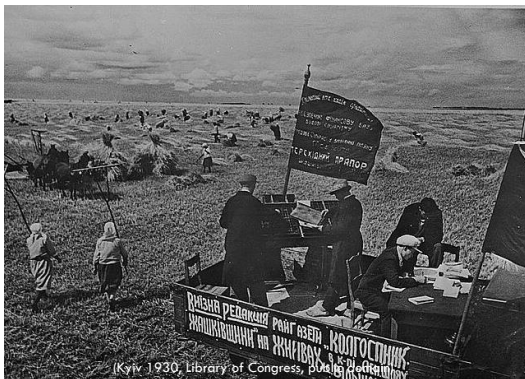
Joseph Stalin became leader of the Soviet Union.



(Wikimedia Commons, public domain)

1924

Stalin began forcing peasants to join collective farms.



(Kyiv 1930, Library of Congress, public domain)

1929

Communist activists sent to the countryside to confiscate grain. Ukraine's grain quota to Moscow raised to 115% above 1926-27 level.



(Donetsk, Photo dated 1930, public domain)

1930

65% of farms and 70% of working animals had been collectivised.



(Donetsk 1934, public domain)

10 March 1930

Of Ukraine's actual harvest of 11-13 million tonnes of grain, 7 million tonnes were confiscated.



(Alexander Wienerberger 1933)

1931

Grigory Petrovsky and Vlas Chubar both wrote letters detailing the famine to Stalin.



10 June 1932

Stalin passed a law to punish taking leftover grain from collective farms by 10 years' imprisonment or death.



7 August 1932

Stalin wrote a letter to his number two, Lazar Kaganovich, fearing that Ukrainian nationalism would lead the USSR to "lose Ukraine".

'Blacklist system' to penalise villages that failed to meet grain quotas.



11 August 1932

20 November 1932

Ukraine's autumn harvest came out 60% lower than expected.



November 1932

Renowned Russian writer Mikhail Sholokhov wrote a letter to Stalin about the famine in his region.



4 April 1933

Special passport system prevented peasants from living or working in cities.



(Alexander Wienerberger 1933)

31 December 1932

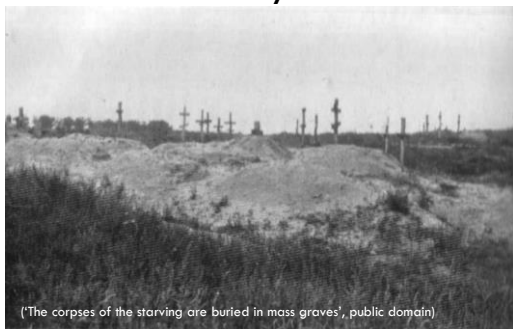
Stalin closed the borders of Ukraine so people could not leave the famine areas.



(Alexander Wienerberger 1933)

22 January 1933

At the height of the famine, 28,000 people were dying per day.



('The corpses of the starving are buried in mass graves', public domain)

June 1933