

“Voiceless Memory” and Holodomor (Great Famine): The Power of Oral History to Challenge Official Historical Discourse

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Abstract : The study is called to test correlation between official sources, preserved in the archives, and “unofficial” oral history regarding the Great Famine of 1932–1933 in Ukraine. The research shows poor preservation of the sources, being deliberately destroyed by the totalitarian regime. It involves analysis of five stages of Holodomor oral history development. It is oral history that provides the mechanism of mass killing. The research proves that using only one type of historical sources leads to a certain line of reading history of the Holodomor, while usage of both types provides in-depth insight in the history of the famine.

Keywords : the Holodomor (the Great Famine), oral history, historical source, historical memory, totalitarianism.

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