

Book Review: *The Harvest of Sorrow: Soviet Collectivization and the Terror-Famine*, by Robert Conquest. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. 411 pp., bibliography, index. \$9.95 (paper).

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This is a catalogue, in relentless detail, of Stalin's programmatic extermination of a large section of the Soviet peasantry through enforced famine and "dekulakization." Approximately 11 million peasants died as a result of these policies between 1930 and 1937; an additional 3.5 million perished in labor camps subsequently Conquest attempts to demonstrate that the "terror-famine" was aimed at particular nationalities, including Ukrainians, Kazakhs, and Don Cossacks, and that it cannot be explained by the economic exigencies of rapid industrialization. While most attention is placed on government actions, there is also substantial material on peasant response. Early on, many peasants resisted grain levies by burning their fields. Next, with the official intensification of the "class struggle," some peasants tried to protect their neighbors by claiming that there were no *kulaks* in their villages; others helped themselves to the property of the dispossessed. But once the famine was systematized, and the borders of the stricken areas sealed off, efforts at survival (eating bark, dirt, human carcasses) replaced attempts to make opportunistic gains or to settle old scores. Conquest notes that by 1937 not only Soviet agricultural productivity was destroyed: with it went many elements of the traditional culture of the free peasantry and every trace of the once-thriving Ukrainian national revival.