

**Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine by Anne Applebaum**

**Art/Bks/Film**

Posted by:

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**What: Book presentation When: Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 12Noon Where: Marshall D. Shulman Seminar Room (1219 Int&rsquo;l Affairs Building), The Harriman Institute of Columbia University, New York City This event is free and open to the public.**

Please join the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University for a presentation by **Anne Applebaum** of her book *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine* (Penguin Random House, October 2017). Chair: **Ann Cooper** (CBS Professor of Professional Practice in International Journalism; International Director; Columbia School of Journalism). In 1929 Stalin launched his policy of agricultural collectivization&mdash;in effect a second Russian revolution&mdash;which forced millions of peasants off their land and onto collective farms. The result was a catastrophic famine, the most lethal in European history. At least five million people died between 1931 and 1933 in the USSR. But instead of sending relief the Soviet state made use of the catastrophe to rid itself of a political problem. In *Red Famine*, Anne Applebaum argues that more than three million of those dead were Ukrainians who perished not because they were accidental victims of a bad policy but because the state deliberately set out to kill them.

Applebaum proves what has long been suspected: after a series of rebellions unsettled the province, Stalin set out to destroy the Ukrainian peasantry. The state sealed the republic&rsquo;s borders and seized all available food. Starvation set in rapidly, and people ate anything: grass, tree bark, dogs, corpses. In some cases, they killed one another for food. Devastating and definitive, *Red Famine* captures the horror of ordinary people struggling to survive extraordinary evil.

Today, Russia, the successor to the Soviet Union, has placed Ukrainian independence in its sights once more. Applebaum&rsquo;s compulsively readable narrative recalls one of the worst crimes of the twentieth century, and shows how it may foreshadow a new threat to the political order in the twenty-first. **Anne Applebaum** is a columnist for *The Washington Post*, a Professor of Practice at the London School of Economics, and a contributor to *The New York Review of Books*. Her previous books include *Iron Curtain*, winner of the Cundill Prize and a finalist for the National Book Award, and *Gulag*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction and a finalist for three other major prizes. She lives in Poland with her husband, Radek Sikorski, a Polish politician, and their two children. &nbsp;

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