“The Evil Itself... Descended on the Earth”: Mapping Manmade Famines and Ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union, 1921-1922 & 1932-1933

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I feel myself incapable of describing all of the atrocities, which I have seen... One gets the impression, as if the evil itself had descended on the earth... these fields will never bear fruit again.

—Malcolm Muggeridge as translated by Theodor Inzitter, 1933

Abstract

This GIS project serves as a complement to a paper, titled “The Evil Itself... Descended on the Earth: Manmade Famines and Ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union, 1921-1922 & 1932-1933.” The paper examines the 1921-22 famine with a focus on the Holodomor in Ukraine, and the 1932-33 famine with a focus on the Volga region. The project envisions results of three paper analyses: a geographic analysis of the famines; a demographic analysis of demographic losses in famine regions; and an economic analysis of the famine effects. The maps used in this paper were generated using a combination of geographic data and population figures. The GIS analysis assists in mapping these famines and ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union.

Mapping Ethnic Germans

Source Maps:

Famine in USSR Source Maps:

(A Paris: Russian Commercial Institute in Paris, 1933)

Volga region and the 1932/33 Holodomor (Death by Hunger) in Ukraine as experienced by Soviet Germans and understood by their co-ethnics in the West. Using and genocidal nature of the Soviet terror famine(s). However, this paper extracts the “Races of the Lower Volga,” the Center for

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Volga German Studies at Concordia University, http://cvgs.cu-

catastrophic consequences of his policies, allowed the West to offer aid during the portland.edu/archives/maps/volga_regio

portland.edu/archives/maps/russia.cfm.

A combination of the geographic information pertaining to ethnic Germans displayed in four historical maps (mapped above), which detail German migrations to the Russian Empire (later the Soviet Union). The maps pinpoints the locations of ethnic German settlements in the Volga region, this map demonstrates the geographic relationship between the famine zones and ethnic German settlements in the Volga region. These maps were generated based on the locations of ethnic German settlements in the Volga region. The Black Sea colonies linger on the map’s periphery, in a semi-autonomous status; the Volga colonies were generally pacifists. The Volga colonies were not.

Mapping the 1932/33 Famine

German Settlements in the Soviet Union

The Mennonite Colonies: Am Trakt

In order meet the first five-year plan, which required the sale of grain overseas to fund industrialization, the Soviets implemented harsh grain requisition policies. It would have to be in the coming year, but the regime stepped up grain requisition to meet the plans.1932 deadline. Moreover, Stalin ordered the “liquidation” of so-called “counter-revolutionaries” and “agitation groups.” The government conducted raids, barricaded villages, and stood idle as millions starved to death. The government conducted raids, barricaded villages, and stood idle as millions starved to death. The government conducted raids, barricaded villages, and stood idle as millions starved to death. However, despite their geographic proximity to the Volga region, the Am Trakt colonies were not. Further research is needed to explain these differences; however, it should be noted that Mennonites were generally pacifists. The Volga colonies were not.

The Famines

After the Revolution, the Red Army targeted wealthy and property accumulators, seizing their land, homes, and livestock, thereby forcing them to cultivate inferior plots a great distance away. When they failed to meet the impossible grain quotas, the Soviets accused the “kulaks” of sabotage and confiscation. Effects of the famine were far-reaching. Estimates of deaths range from 8 to 10 million. Millions died, millions more survived, and the survivors would not talk about it. The survivors talked about the “secret” of the famine. They talked about the “secret” of the famine. They talked about the “secret” of the famine.

The Mennonites: Am Trakt

Maria Weis grew up in Am Trakt. Soviet officials forcibly removed her family and their neighbors from their land, forcing them to cultivate inferior plots a great distance away. When they failed to meet the impossible grain quotas, the Soviets accused the “kulaks” of sabotage and confiscation. Effects of the famine were far-reaching. Estimates of deaths range from 8 to 10 million. Millions died, millions more survived, and the survivors would not talk about it. The survivors talked about the “secret” of the famine. They talked about the “secret” of the famine. They talked about the “secret” of the famine.

Volga Mother Colonies

Combining GIS, coordinate, and census data, “Population Change in the Volga Region...” maps the movement of ethnic Germans between the Volga and Black Sea colonies, the Am Trakt colonies noted near the center of the famine zone. The Black Sea colonies linger in its periphery in a semi-autonomous status.

The Evacuation of Ethnic Germans from the Volga Region and the Ukrainian Black Sea Colonies. The Black Sea colonies were not. Further research is needed to explain these differences; however, it should be noted that Mennonites were generally pacifists. The Volga colonies were not.