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The Crimes of the Totalitarian Regimes in Ukraine: Scholarly and Educational Perspectives. Materials of the International Scholarly Conference held in Vinnytsia on November 21-22, 2009

In Ukraine the totalitarian regimes led by Hitler and Stalin committed huge crimes – the Holodomor (Great Famine), the Great Terror, and the Holocaust. How could all that happen? What do we need to know about these events? How does one teach about these subjects? These issues were the focus of the conference “The Crimes of the Totalitarian Regimes in Ukraine: Scholarly and Educational Perspectives”. Although recently scholarly debates have been taking place on the comparison between those two totalitarian systems in Ukrainian history, the fruits of those scholarly disputes have hardly entered into the educational literature, nor have they been published as separate volumes. However, there is an understanding in Ukrainian society today of the need for a narrative of the history of twentieth-century Ukraine which is truthful, integrates it into the wider European context, and provides an historical assessment of the era’s horrific genocides. It is hoped that this collection will find its readers – scholars, educators, and all who are interested in the totalitarian past of Ukraine and Europe – and thus will foster more substantive discussion in Ukrainian society about the concept of its historical memory.

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