The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Moscow Says Berlin Tried to 'Demonize Russia' with Famine Ruling

By AFP

December 01, 2022



Monument to victims of the Holodomor in Kyiv. **president.gov.ua**

Moscow said Thursday that a decision by German lawmakers to recognize the 1930s starvation of millions in Ukraine as "genocide" was an attempt to "demonize Russia."

The 1932-33 Holodomor — Ukrainian for "death by starvation" — is regarded by Kyiv as a deliberate act of genocide by Soviet leader Josef Stalin's regime, and it has long been a source of hostility between Russia and Ukraine.

Moscow contests this designation, placing the events in the broader context of famines that also devastated regions of Central Asia and Russia.

The foreign ministry in Moscow said members of the German parliament had "decided to defiantly support this political and ideological myth fostered by the Ukrainian authorities at the instigation of ultranationalist, Nazi and Russophobic forces."

The ministry said in a statement the resolution was a new Western attempt to "demonize Russia" and pit ethnic Ukrainians against Russians.

Moscow also accused Germans of "trying to rewrite their history and forget the repentance for the horrors they committed during World War II" and of seeking to "diminish their guilt."

The German parliament "should be ashamed of such immoral decisions that revive the fascist ideology of racial hatred and discrimination," the ministry said.

The joint text passed by members of parliament from Germany's center left-led coalition and the opposition conservatives is intended as a "warning" to Russia as Ukraine faces a potential hunger crisis this winter due to Moscow's military campaign.

Kyiv has praised Berlin's move.

President Volodymyr Zelensky called the resolution a "decision for justice, for truth."

"And this is a very important signal to many other countries of the world that Russian revanchism will not succeed in rewriting history," Zelensky said in his daily address to the nation late on Wednesday.

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