

EVALUATION  
Of the second Round Table for the participants of the final round  
of the High-School Students Discussion  
“Human Rights in the History of the 20th Century”

October 19, 2012. Kyiv Teacher’s House (57 Volodymyrska St.)

**Participants:**

33 students (winners of the first stage of the discussion)  
24 consulting teachers  
4 teachers from Kyiv

**Organizers, Speakers, Moderators:**

Petro Kendzor, Nataliya Holosova	“Nova Doba” Association.
Stanislav Kulchytskyi	Doctor of Historical Science, Professor at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. President of the Association of Teachers of History and Social Sciences “Nova Doba”. Research interests – Stalinist Totalitarianism in Ukraine, the Holodomor.
Vladyslav Hrynevych	Doctor of Historical Science, Senior Researcher at the I. F. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnonational Studies at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Associate Professor at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Research interests – nationalism, World War II, Holodomor of 1932-33, historical memory.
Iryna Shatokhina	Film director at the National TV Company of Ukraine
Kozoroh Oleksandra	Trainer for teachers seminar, Photos,
Sytnyk Ella	Tour guide to Kyiv memorial

**Questions for discussion:**

- TOTALITARIANISM AS A POLITICAL REGIME IN HISTORY: WAS THERE A TERRITORY FOR HUMAN FREEDOM UNDER THE TOTAL POLITICAL CONTROL?

The discussion was centered around the Introduction of Timothy Snyder’s Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin. Excerpts from the book were read aloud, particularly those about the fate of children under the totalitarian regimes of Hitler and Stalin. Later discussed focused on the events and destinies of regular people in times of:

- The Holodomor Famine in Ukraine
- Stalin’s Great Terror of 1937-38
- Mass murders of the Poles by the Soviet Special Units in 1940
- Famine in the blockaded Leningrad in the winter of 1941-42
- Holocaust

The first discussion finished with students’ interpretation of the following quotations:

Totalitarianism does not seek despotic power over the people but to the establishment of such system where people not needed.”

Hanna Arendt

“Don’t be afraid of friends – when the bad comes to worse they may betray you. Don’t be afraid of enemies – when the bad comes to worse they may kill you. Beware of the indifferent. Their silent consent sanctifies murders and betrayals.”

Anvari, Medieval philosopher.

- DOES THE SOCIETY NEED HISTORICAL HEROES? WHICH HEROES UNITE AND WHICH SEPARATE THE CONTEMPORARY UKRAINIAN SOCIETY?
  - Who are heroes? Why are new monuments being erected to the heroes of the last century events?
  - In the war battles during the 20<sup>th</sup> century our compatriots fought in different armies, often adversary armies. How should we now treat the monuments erected in their honor?
  - Why do the monuments dedicated to some historic figures cause ambiguous reaction from citizens in different Ukrainian regions?
  - In your opinion, which monuments divide the Ukrainian society?
  - Which monuments unite us?
  - What monuments are needed today in our society?
  - Today, there are still many monuments demonstrating obsolete political ideas. Do we need to destroy them, leave untouched or transfer into another place?
  - How correct are statements that the monuments “don’t palter”, “don’t lie”, “don’t keep silent” and “don’t twist the facts”? If so, do they help us understand history better?

### Program

8-45	Registration of participants	
9-30	Opening of the Round Table.	
10-00	<u>Petro Kendzor, project coordinator</u> <u>Prof. Stanislav Kulchytskyi, President of Association “Nova Doba”</u>	
	Students Team	Teachers Team
10-00	Round table for high-school students Moderators: <u>Petro Kendzor</u> <u>Nataliya Holosova</u> .	Totalitarian and Communist regimes in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century <u>Lecturer: Prof. Stanislav Kulchytskyi</u>
11-30		Was the Ukrainian society under Stalin totalitarian? <u>Lecturer: Prof. Vladyslav Hrynevych</u>
		Discussion
11-30	Break	
12-00		
12-00	Screening and discussion of video clips on: totalitarianism and heroes in history Stalin in the movies (“The Red Monarch” and “The Oath”) Heroes of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century (“The Feat of the Scout” – Mykola Kuznietsov) and “Atentat” (Stepan Bandera)  Moderators - <u>Iryna Shatokhina</u> , <u>Nataliya Holosova</u>	Presentation and discussion of books: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern discussions on World War II. Ed. by Yaroslav Hrytsak.</li> <li>• Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin. By Timothy Snyder.</li> <li>• Unbridled Dissonance. WWII and socio-political moods in Ukraine. By Vladyslav Hrynevych</li> <li>• Together in One Land. Multicultural History of Ukraine. Edited by Petro Kendzor</li> </ul> <u>Oleksandra Kozoroh, Petro Kendzor, Vladyslav Hrynevych</u>
13-00		
13-00	Joint Closing Session	
14-00	Presentation of short videos on Babyn Yar, Bykivniaky Tombs, the Holodomor Memorial Moderator – Petro Kendzor	
14-00	Lunch Break	
15-00		
16-00	Tour to the Museum of Kyiv Society “Memorial”	
17-30	Moderator: <u>Ella Sytnyk</u>	

- "I couldn't even imagine how different are my views and the views of my peers from different regions of Ukraine" Volodymyr Petrov, Gymnasium No. 2, Odesa
- "The organization of the round table was successful. I didn't expect the excerpts for T. Snyder's book Bloodlands and the famous quotes on totalitarianism to be so up to the point" Alla Bahley, school No. 5, Chernivtsi
- 
- "When my mother saw me off to Kyiv for the high-school students' discussion, she was convinced it would be another politically engaged propaganda, but there was nothing of the kind..." Danylo Fedor, Gymnasium No. 11, Dniprodzerzhynsk, Dnipropetrovsk oblast
- 
- "We got a right and a chance to speak our minds and to be heard" Anna Ivanova, Vilshane School, Kharkiv oblast.
- 
- "Those weren't discussions of the past, they were about the present and the future" Sofiya Hurska, Zalishchyky Gymnasium, Ternopil oblast
- 
- "I was impressed at how freely we could talk... It broadened my outlook immensely" Tania Feduniv, Zalishchyky Gymnasium, Ternopil oblast.
- 
- "I heard new facts, I learnt about new events. But my biggest discovery was the different views of my peers on these events." Kyrylo Drik, school No. 128, Dnipropetrovsk
- 
- "The discussion was very democratic. This made me think of writing a paper on totalitarianism in the Junior Academy of Science" Ivan Labunets, School No. 22 named after M. O. Ostriakov, Sevastopol
- 
- "We looked at historical problems, which are waiting to be solved by the young people" Volodia Zamkovyi, Znamyanka Lyceum, Kirovograd oblast