

Media Effects of Historical Documentaries on Humanitarian Values: A Comparative Study of Holocaust and Holodomor Representations

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1. Background / Introduction
 Historical documentaries play an important role in shaping **collective memory, moral reflection, and humanitarian values**.
 Visual exposure to past atrocities may evoke strong emotional reactions and influence attitudes toward **conflict resolution, social tolerance, and human rights**.
 However, the psychological impact of such historical media on young audiences remains insufficiently understood.

2. Aim
 To investigate the **psychological and value-related effects** of documentaries about two major 20th-century tragedies:
 the **Holocaust (1939–1945)**
 the **Holodomor famine in Ukraine (1932–1933)**
 The study examined whether exposure to these documentaries affects:
 conflict attitudes
 prejudice toward social groups
 humanitarian and cosmopolitan values.

3. Theoretical Framework
 The study applies the **Multidimensional Imparting of History (MIH) model**, which examines how historical media narratives influence:
 emotional engagement with historical events
 cognitive processing of historical injustice
 development of humanitarian values.
 The model evaluates dimensions such as:
 aggression control
 prejudice reduction
 communitas skills
 political humanitas (commitment to universal human rights).

6. Conclusions
 Historical documentaries can positively influence **humanitarian values and peaceful conflict attitudes** among young audiences.
 Media representations of past atrocities may promote:
 empathy toward victims of violence
 cosmopolitan and transnational perspectives
 support for universal human rights.
 The findings highlight the **educational potential of historical media** for promoting tolerance and intercultural understanding.

4. Methods
Participants
 N = 185 university students
 Age: 17–23 years
 Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Design
 Pre–post experimental design measuring responses **before and after documentary exposure**.
Stimuli
 Holocaust documentary
Night and Fog (1955)
 Holodomor documentary
Ear of Truth (2008)
 Five experimental groups viewed different documentary versions.
Measures
 Questionnaires assessed:
 emotional reactions
 conflict attitudes
 prejudice toward social groups
 humanitarian values.

5. Results
 Exposure to the documentaries produced several significant effects:
Conflict attitudes
 increased willingness to compromise
 reduced support for aggressive conflict behavior
Humanitarian values
 stronger support for universal human rights
 increased cosmopolitan problem-solving attitudes
Prejudice reduction
 decreases in antisemitism, racism, and sexism
 strongest effects observed after the Holodomor documentar
 Contextual framing of historical memory further enhanced humanitarian responses.

Table 1. Changes in Communitas Skills and Political Humanitas in Holocaust groups.

Agreed to ...	G1		G2		G3		Between Group	Total
	p	d%	p	d%	p	d%		
If I see a victim, I do help in any case, regardless of race and origin of the person concerned.	*	-3,9	*	6,5	0,9		0,1	
I like to party with people from different cultures and backgrounds.		-1,3		1,8	0,9		0,1	
I prefer to party with my own kind. (-)		4,2		3,2	-0,4		2,7	
I will stand up for someone who is being threatened violently by another person, even if I must take a risk		4,2		3,2	4,0	*	3,9	
I would defend a stranger in my own country if he is attacked.	**	-5,9	*	7,4	3,7		0,2	
I have got a friendly relationship to the nations on earth.		4,7	**	8,3	6,3	**	6,1	
Index Communitas		-1,8	*	4,0	1,9		0,8	
I stand up for human rights.		-0,3		3,7	-3,6		-0,1	
I show commitment for people in need.	*	3,7	**	7,1	* 5,5	***	5,1	
I donate to starving children and adults all around the world.		0,3		3,2	* 8,9		3,4	
I stand up for politically persecuted people and fight actively against torture.		-0,5		3,3	0,9		0,9	
I get actively involved with the peace on earth.	***	6,8		6,5	* 12,5	***	8,2	
Index Political Humanitas		2,0	**	5,1	4,8	**	3,6	

Table 3. Changes in conflict behavior and prejudice in Holocaust groups.

Agression control	G1		G2		G3		Between Group	Total
	p	d%	p	d%	p	d%		
Reactive aggression		-0,2		-0,5	1,0			0,1
Willingness to compromise		4,1		4,1	* 6,5		***	4,8
Readiness to fight	***	-7,7	***	-12,4	** -9,1		***	-9,4
Conflict transformation		-1,5		1,4	1,0			-0,1
Antisemitism		0,4		-0,9	-0,7			-0,3
Racism		3,2	**	9,4	1,3		**	4,4
Islamophobia		-1,9		2,3	-5,5			-1,7
Xenophobia	**	3,7		0,5	4,1		*	3,0
Devaluation of newcomers	*	5,6	***	14,5	2,4		***	7,1
Sexism		3,2		-4,1	-2,1			-0,1
Devaluation of homosexuals	***	-6,4	*	-7,1	2,3		**	-4,3
Devaluation of homeless people		1,0	*	9,9	*** -12,6	!!!		-0,4
Devaluation of disabled people	**	7,1	*	6,9	-3,0		**	4,5
Group Focused Enmity		1,8	*	2,9	-2,4	!		1,1

Table 2. Changes in Communitas Skills and Political Humanitas in Holodomor groups.

Agreed to ...	G1		G2		Between Group	Total
	p	d%	p	d%		
If I see a victim, I do help in any case, regardless of race and origin of the person concerned.		-0,8		2,0		0,9
I like to party with people from different cultures and backgrounds.		2,3		2,3	*	2,3
I prefer to party with my own kind. (-)	**	10,4	*	7,8	**	8,8
I will stand up for someone who is being threatened violently by another person, even if I must take a risk		-3,9		2,0		-0,3
I would defend a stranger in my own country if he is attacked.		-1,2		-1,3		-1,2
I have got a friendly relationship to the nations on earth.		-1,2		2,8		1,2
Index Communitas	**	-2,7		0,0		-1,0
I stand up for human rights.		-2,6		0,8		-0,6
I show commitment for people in need.		1,1		2,3		1,8
I donate to starving children and adults all around the world.		-0,4		1,3		0,6
I stand up for politically persecuted people and fight actively against torture.		-0,8		1,8		0,8
I get actively involved with the peace on earth.		-0,4		3,8		2,2
Index Political Humanitas		-0,6		2,0		1,0

Table 4. Changes in conflict behaviour and prejudice in Holodomor groups.

Agression control	G1		G2		Between Group	Total
	p	d%	p	d%		
Reactive aggression		0,0		1,5		0,9
Willingness to compromise	***	7,5	**	4,3		*** 5,6
Readiness to fight	**	-8,7	***	-8,9		*** -8,9
Conflict transformation	*	5,2		0,1		2,1
Anti-Semitism		-0,6	***	-5,6	!	** -3,7
Racism	*	-5,6		-1,5		* -3,1
Islamophobia		-1,0		-2,2		-1,7
Xenophobia		-0,4		-1,4		-1,0
Devaluation of newcomers		1,7		0,3		0,8
Sexism		-2,8	*	-3,6	**	-3,3
Devaluation of homosexuals		-0,2		-1,6		-1,1
Devaluation of homeless people		-3,6		-2,9		-3,1
Devaluation of disabled people		-0,8		0,6		0,1
Group Focused Enmity		-0,3	*	-2,4		* -1,6