"The Holy See and the Holodomor is a compact, interesting, and useful collection of previously unpublished documents from the Vatican archives on the Church’s understanding of the Ukrainian famine, 1932-1933, and its efforts to find a way to provide relief. The Holy See knew about and publicized the tragic fate of the Ukrainian peasantry in those years. But there was little it could or did do to relieve the misery of the starving millions. This book helps us understand why."

Norman Naimark is the Robert and Florence McDonnell Professor of Eastern European Studies at Stanford University. His most recent book is Stalin’s Genocides, (Princeton University Press, 2010).