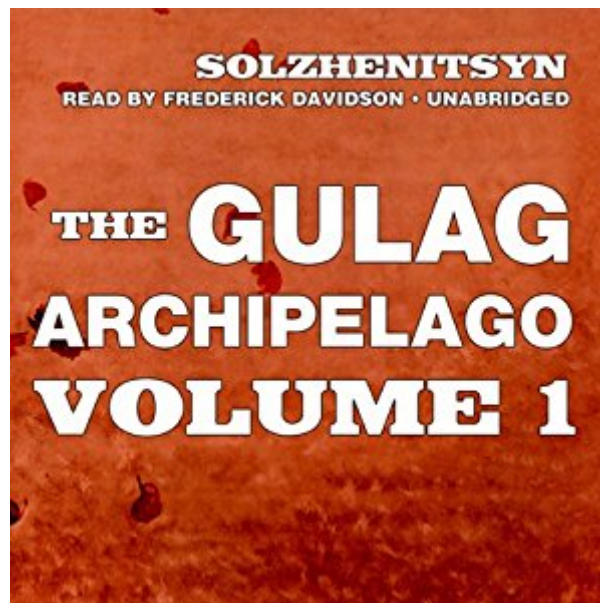




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The Gulag Archipelago, Volume L: The Prison Industry And Perpetual Motion



Synopsis

In this masterpiece, Solzhenitsyn has orchestrated thousands of incidents and individual histories into one narrative of unflagging power and momentum. Written in a tone that encompasses Olympian wrath, bitter calm, savage irony, and sheer comedy, it combines history, autobiography, documentary, and political analysis as it examines in its totality the Soviet apparatus of repression from its inception following the October Revolution of 1917. This volume involves us in the innocent victim's arrest and preliminary detention and the stages by which he is transferred across the breadth of the Soviet Union to his ultimate destination: the hard-labor camp.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Talk about an eye opening experience. How did we not learn any of this in school? Shame. The imagery of the sewer system flushing the perceived worthlessness of life is a heartbreaking one. I'm a third of the way through the book. It's hard to read but entirely necessary.

The hardcover version includes, at the bottom of many pages, the author's notes. These notes should be considered an essential part of the book. They are interesting and designed to enhance and embellish the text. Do not purchase the paperback version, because it does not include those essential notes by the author. Obviously, this book (in hardcover form with the notes) is essential reading-- everyone who is able should invest the time to absorb this important, very moving, stereotype-shattering, great/classic work of non-fiction. According to Wikipedia, since 2009 this book (in Russian) has been required reading by Russian high school students (in Russia).

This was an interesting and detailed read my only problem is they cut out most of the personal stories I was getting into most. A little dry at times and there is very little about it that is uplifting, but it is an important book that I got a lot out of, I just wish it was edited differently.

A long and sometimes difficult book, but great insight into politics and history of Communist Russia by an eyewitness to the events.

Fantastic book! Defiantly worth buying all three volumes instead of an abridged version.

Eye opening topic. First 1/4 of book is a very compelling easy read.

For any who have any nostalgia for the Soviet Union, this book should put it to rest. This book is hard to categorize; it is more than one man's opinion, but less than an objective history. It is, as Solzhenitsyn puts it, "an experiment in literary investigation": a combination memoir and dissertation on the evils of Communism and its inevitable product, the forced labor camp. Some have criticized Solzhenitsyn as an anti-Communist/pro-Western polemicist, but that is not an accurate description. He is a realist, showing not only the faults of Communists, but also those of the West and Western leaders. This should be required reading for European and world history classes. Volume 1 (of 3) describes the arrest and interrogation procedures, as well as life in the Gulag.

Great book but tough read. Really depressing what people had to go through and the fear they lived in. Being born in the USSR this book really hit close to home. Would recommend it but would advise that it's a tough book

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