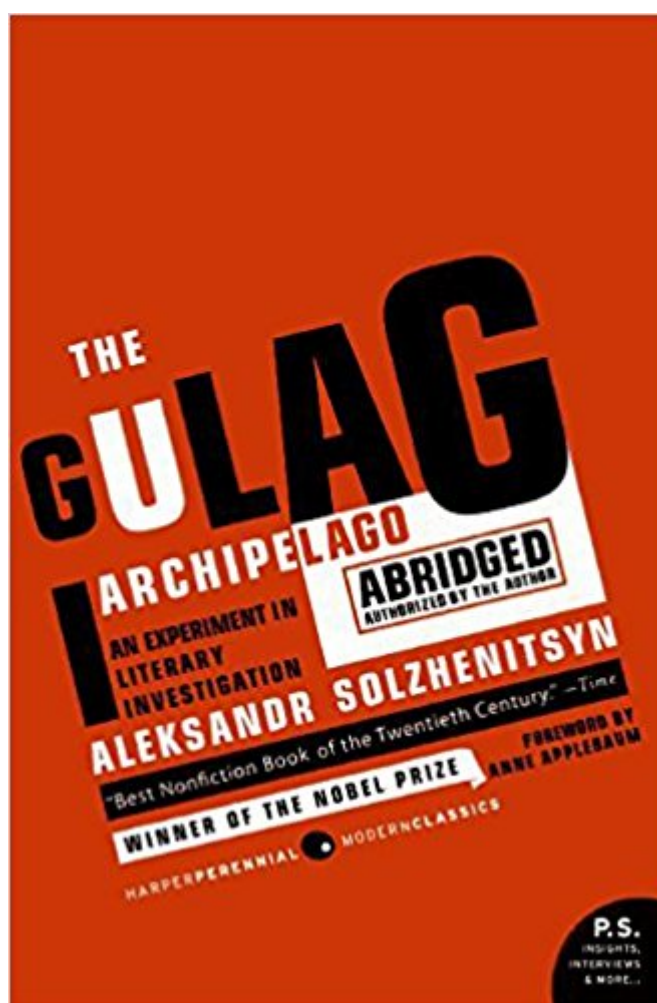


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The Gulag Archipelago Abridged: An Experiment In Literary Investigation (P.S.)



Synopsis

Herewith the unchallenged epic of our era. A towering masterpiece of world literature, the searing record of four decades of terror and oppression, distilled into one abridged volume (authorized by the author). Drawing on his own experiences before, during and after his eleven years of incarceration and exile, on evidence provided by more than 200 fellow prisoners, and on Soviet archives, Solzhenitsyn reveals with torrential narrative and dramatic power the entire apparatus of Soviet repression, the state within the state that once ruled all-powerfully with its creation by Lenin in 1918. Through truly Shakespearean portraits of its victims—this man, that woman, that child—we encounter the secret police operations, the labor camps and prisons, the uprooting or extermination of whole populations, the “welcome” that awaited Russian soldiers who had been German prisoners of war. Yet we also witness astounding moral courage, the incorruptibility with which the occasional individual or a few scattered groups, all defenseless, endured brutality and degradation. And Solzhenitsyn’s genius has transmuted this grisly indictment into a literary miracle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Best Nonfiction Book of the Twentieth Century” (Time magazine)

Text: English, Russian (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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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