

## Chapter 1 : The Gulag Archipelago - The Full Wiki

*The Gulag Archipelago, (Part 1). Author: Alexander Solzhenitsyn. All of our paper waste is recycled within the UK and turned into corrugated cardboard.*

Throughout this chapter and as with much of the book A. They understood that the cases were fabricated, yet they kept on working year after year. Either they forced themselves not to think and this in itself means the ruin of a human being, or it was a matter of the Progressive Doctrine [ie. Throughout the time of the Gulags, to be a Bluecap meant essentially unlimited power over the lives of others, given the arbitrary nature of the arrests and how spurious the charges could be. No one was exempt from a Bluecap checking up on them, while no one would dare to check up on what a Bluecap does. If there was a man in the picture, there was no problem about removing him. Given a near-total lack of accountability, the only rule that moderated the Bluecaps was that they remain loyal to their own organization. He speaks of his own experience when they had tried to recruit him and his classmates in college. Despite good wages and the aforementioned power, he said there was simply a feeling in the gut which told him to steer clear. However if enough pressure was applied, almost anyone would join. Let everyone ask himself: If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. It is permissible to portray evildoers in a story for children, so as to keep the picture simple. But when the great world literature of the past—Shakespeare, Schiller, Dickens—inflates and inflates images of evildoers of the blackest shades, it seems somewhat farcical and clumsy to our contemporary perception. The trouble lies in the way these classic evildoers are pictured. They recognize themselves as evildoers, and they know their souls are black. Fortunately, it is in the nature of the human being to seek a justification for his actions. Yes, even Iago was a little lamb too. Because they had no ideology. Ideology—that is what gives evildoing its long-sought justification and gives the evildoer the necessary steadfastness and determination. Thanks to ideology, the twentieth century was fated to experience evildoing on a scale calculated in the millions. A man might bob back and forth between good and evil his entire life. But when, through the density of evil or the extremeness of his actions, that threshold is crossed, a man can leave humanity behind, perhaps without the possibility of return. He discusses the need, at this time being in the ss, to keep a record of what had happened, to find those people who had been involved now entering old age, to bring them to trial. Not even necessarily to punish them but simply to compel them to admit loudly that they had been involved, that they had been an executioner and a murderer. There are numerous instances throughout the book where A. Chapter 5—First Cell, First Love Now for the first time you were about to see people who were not your enemies. In this chapter A. The prisoners were kept on a very regimented schedule, for example only being allowed to the toilet at specific times and how overlooked it is in freedom to be able to relieve yourself when you desire to. They needed to wake up promptly at 6AM each morning, with any oversleeping subject to punishment. Enforced wakefulness was an important part of the prison regime. Despite the day to day monotony, A. There were no events worthy of attention, and yet by evening I would sigh because once more there had not been enough time, once more the day had flown. The events were trivial, but for the first time in my life I learned to look at them through a magnifying glass. Page One of the recurring topics throughout the book is the scarcity of food available to prisoners, there never seemed to be enough to eat. That pound of unrisen wet bread, with its swamplike sogginess of texture, made half with potato flour, was our crutch and the main event of the day. The day had begun—this was when it began! And everyone had countless problems. Had he allocated his bread ration wisely the day before? Should he cut it with a thread? Or break it up greedily? Or slowly, quietly nip off pieces one by one? Should he wait for tea or pile into it right now? Should he leave some for dinner or finish it off at lunch? Page This chapter is also A. These are prisoners who have agreed to inform on their fellow cellmates in return for special privileges, and the practice was widespread throughout the Gulag. In the Gulag, where such things can be a matter of life or death, prisoners once again come to develop and rely on this intuition about other people, such that in many years of imprisonment A. He had experience in the Tsarist prisons and exile from which he

simply escaped to Europe without much trouble, and had traveled widely to Europe, Canada and America, including meeting and working with Lenin during his time in Paris. After the revolution, he felt called to return to Russia in order to participate. It was an unlucky break that caused him to be arrested so many years later, after a gun was found in his neighbors apartment, and further investigation discovered his own background. This man brought a valued perspective to the cell since he could speak of prison traditions and had seen so much. He spoke in particular about how in Tsarist times, it had actually been an honor to be a political prisoner, and the public would send gifts of food for unknown prisoners. Fastenko includes an anecdote I found interesting: Soon after Fastenko returned to the Motherland, he was followed by a Canadian acquaintance, a former sailor on the battleship Potemkin, one of the mutineers, in fact, who had escaped to Canada and become a well-to-do farmer there. This former Potemkin sailor sold everything he owned, his farm and cattle, and returned to his native region with his money and his new tractor to help build sacred socialism. He enlisted in one of the first agricultural communes and donated his tractor to it. The tractor was driven any which way by whoever happened along and was quickly ruined. And the former Potemkin sailor saw things turning out very differently from the way he had pictured them for twenty years. Those in charge were incompetents, issuing orders that any sensible farmer could see were wild nonsense. In addition, he became skinnier and skinnier, and his clothes wore out, and nothing was left of the Canadian dollars he had exchanged for paper rubles. He begged to be allowed to leave with his family, and he crossed the border as poor as when he fled from the Potemkin. He crossed the ocean, just as he had done then, working his way as a sailor, because he had no money for passages, and back in Canada he began life all over again as a hired hand on a farm. Page Another prisoner had been a leading engineer, responsible for building projects employing dozens of engineers and thousands of workers. He was fond of bragging in detail about the number of women he had been with keeping in mind, this was during the war when many men had been taken to the front, and A. The new class of engineers had come up after the revolution. As the old engineers were being herded into the Gulag, it became urgently necessary for those in power to produce their own class of engineers, who were politically loyal. The man was full of energy. And yet he had forgotten one thing: So sure enough, a dossier against him had begun to accumulate going back for years. This slip up is what caused the case against him to begin rolling. For this man, his fall was particularly harsh. Yuri was a former Russian officer. He had spent time in a German POW camp- and he experienced first hand the horrible conditions of those Soviet prisoners, who were practically starving to death. He himself worked as an artist for the German officers in order to remain fed and alive. Seeing how badly the Soviet prisoners fared in comparison to those of other nationalities who had access to the Red Cross and food parcels from home, he gradually realized that the Soviet soldiers were intentionally abandoned if only to make the prospect of surrender terrifying for those soldiers still fighting. Able to speak German, he eventually joined the Germans in their scheme to develop Russians into spies. The Germans put no special trust in these spies, but from their perspective there was no harm in trying, and for the Russians involved it was a way to escape starvation in the POW camp. Yuri was promised forgiveness by the Soviet high command if he were to return and share his valuable knowledge of the German intelligence systems- and having returned, he was given 10 days to share everything he had learned. Upon conclusion, he was promptly arrested and sent to prison. At some point, they hear a 40 gun salute ring out over Moscow, and realize that the second world war has come to an end. First, by being thrown into a war that was incompetently executed, their lives simply thrown away. Second, by being abandoned to die in captivity without the slightest support or concern. By being coaxed home, only to be imprisoned and sent off to the gulag In the Red Army, it was illegal to surrender- a soldier was supposed to lie down and die rather than surrender. So any former POW had broken the law and was considered a traitor. Later, many soldiers realized they would have been better to desert prior to seeing any battle: In discussing the need to imprison these former prisoners, A. Another reason was that Stalin needed manpower for his massive construction projects â€” few young men would willingly volunteer for such projects so shortly after returning from war, instead wanting to be with their families. The effort was half-baked, and the Russians themselves would pretend to be willing, knowing that as soon as they were sent back across the front lines they would abandon their explosives, go rejoin their former units and laugh together at the stupidity of the Germans. This was a man

who would rather innocent men should rot than to miss one genuine spy. And how it eased the burden for the MGB executioners when thousands of soldiers pouring in from Europe did not even try to conceal that they had voluntarily enlisted as spies. This was a scheme whereby the Germans created an army of Russian soldiers who would fight against the Soviets, and this was led by Andrei Andreyevich Vlasov, a former Soviet general. He was in command of the Second Shock Army which was meant to help lift the blockade of Leningrad in co-ordination with various other units. They gradually became thoroughly encircled, since the Russian command was unable to properly support them, and as winter had turned to spring the roads behind them became unusable. As they gradually starved, they were eventually forced to surrender, including Vlasov himself. Eventually, he was brought together with other officers who had purportedly also renounced their homeland. In any event, Vlasov and his Russian Liberation Army were caught without any good options. The Germans deeply distrusted them, happy to use them for cannon fodder, while the soldiers knew they could only face a traitors fate if they were ever to try to return home, now that they were fighting against the Red Army. Their only hope was for a German victory, and as a result they fought with desperation.

### Chapter 2 : The Gulag Archipelago, - Part 1, Chapters Summary & Analysis

*This is part one of the audiobook The Gulag Archipelago by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, narrated by Frederick Davidson. The book, in which he details the horrors of the Soviet forced labour camps known.*

Bgniss - favoritefavoritefavoritefavorite - March 19, Subject: Life Changing expose Born a war baby in Australia while my father was fighting Japanese invasion in PNG and islands, I was still at university doing the long course of Medicine during the reign of the baby boomers with their nihilistic anarchism response to the cold war with the daily possibility of nuclear annihilation. Marxism had a grip on the academic communities of all the major universities. Reading Gulag was a long, long process and the going was tedious but the author was able to give a first hand account of real life experiences and true descriptions of the totalitarian and merciless behaviour of the proletarian dictators. Once and for all my mind was able to resist the drip, drip, drip of the propaganda. While debunking the plausibility of the mystical ideal New Man touted in the most committed ideological evangelists of Marxism he exposes the old truth in a new way - man cannot perfect mankind as there is a flaw in the fabric of our being. He does not despair as he draws hope from his acceptance of the good news of salvation bringing the necessary power from outside ourselves making it possible to live differently. It is worth noting that as soon as he was exiled to the west he unhesitatingly applied the same insight to the secular culture of the West and quickly lost his status as being a champion of us against them. Yes, even Iago was a little lamb too. Because they had no ideology. This cannot be denied, nor passed over, nor suppressed. How, then, do we dare insist that evildoers do not exist? And who was it that destroyed these millions? Without evildoers there would have been no Archipelago. I do not know whether this is truth or calumny, or, if there were any such cases, how many there were. Following the practice of the bluecaps, I would propose that they prove to us that this was impossible. How else could they get food for the zoos in those famine years? Take it away from the working class? But the evildoer with ideology does cross it, and his eyes remain dry and clear. Well, enough inter-review banter. To summarize the whole seven books of the Gulag Archipelago in a single sentence, I would say that it is a book about men under a total ideology, crushed under it, or crushing other men under it, or just standing at its side and watching, and what it is like, and what it does to you. I say "men" intentionally. Women appear in lots of anecdotes but you do not get a very deep picture. Also it is very much a book about religious feeling in the darkness and the way that people need it, although not ever in the sense of religion as an ideology. For example the throwaway line from p.



upward if you can climb it. Looking back, I saw that for my whole conscious life I had not understood either myself or my strivings. What had seemed for so long beneficial now turned out in actuality to be fatal, and I had been striving to go in the opposite direction to that which was truly necessary to me. But just as the waves of the sea knock the inexperienced swimmer off his feet and keep tossing him back on to the shore, so also was I painfully tossed back on dry land by the blows of misfortune. And it was only because of this that I was able to travel the path which I had always really wanted to travel. It was granted me to carry away from my prison years on my bent back, which nearly broke beneath its load, this essential experience: In the intoxication of youthful successes I had felt myself to be infallible, and I was therefore cruel. In the surfeit of power I was a murderer and an oppressor. In my most evil moments I was convinced that I was doing good, and I was well supplied with systematic arguments. And it was only when I lay there rotting on prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good. Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either - but right through every human heart - and through all human hearts. Inside us it oscillates with the years. And even within the hearts overwhelmed with evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained. And even in the best of all hearts, there remains an un-uprooted small corner of evil. Since then I have come to understand the truth of all the religions on the world. They struggle with the evil inside a human being inside every human being. It is impossible to expel evil from the world in its entirety, but it is possible to constrict it within each person. And since that time I have come to understand the falsehood of all the revolutions of history: And they take to themselves as their heritage the actual evil itself, magnified still more. Prison causes the profound rebirth of a human being Here all the trivia and fuss have decreased. I have experienced a turning point. Here you harken to that voice deep inside you, which amid the surfeit and vanity used to be stifled by the roar from outside Your soul, which formerly was dry, now ripens from suffering Remember everything you did that was bad and shameful and take thought "can you possible correct it now? Yes, you have been imprisoned for nothing. And the only solution to this would be that the meaning of earthly existence lies not, as we have grown used to thinking, in prospering, but in the development of the soul In the surfeit of power I was a murderer, and an oppressor. I was convinced that I was doing good. And it was only when I lay there on rotting prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good Lev Tolstoi was right when he dreamed of being put in prison. At certain moment the giant began to dry up. He actually needed prison as a drought needs a shower of rain And I say without hesitation: In prison, both in solitary confinement and outside solitary too, a human being confronts his grief face to face. This grief is a mountain, but he has to find space inside himself for it, to familiarize himself with it, to digest it, and it him. This is the highest form of moral effort, which has always ennobled every human being. A duel with years and with walls constitutes moral work and a path upward if you can climb it. And if those who came had not been so hopelessly asinine and arrogant, had not kept the Kolkhoz administration comfortable for the Greater Germany, had not invented such a disgust as turning Russia into a colony, then the national idea would not have concentrated there where it was being strangled all the time, and hardly would it have been possible to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Russian Communism. For twenty years, the religion was being persecuted and the churches closed. The Germans came and began re-opening churches [â€¦] In Rostov-on-Don the inauguration became a huge jubilation, that attracted lots of people. But of course they should have damned the Germans for that, eh? In June, excavation started near orthodox cemetery, and another 42 graves were found. And that only in Vinnica, where these were incidentally discovered. But how many might have been hidden in other towns? And the population should have rushed to become Soviet partisans, having seen those graves? Now I can have a rest at last! Nay, she should have prayed for her butchers to return. The population, especially rural, massively going with the defeated enemy, the foreigners " in order not to remain under the victorious own " carts, carts, carts in the severe windy January frost!

**Chapter 4 : Gulag Archipelago Ch 1: Arrest - Part 1 - Food for Thought Police**

*Part 1, Chapter 1 Summary and Analysis "Arrest" describes the many ways in which arrests occur in the USSR and how the author falls into the "clandestine Archipelago." The Gulag is always close at hand, unnoticed until one is grabbed.*

While there she met and married Isaakiy Semyonovich Solzhenitsyn, a young officer in the Imperial Russian Army of Cossack origin and fellow native of the Caucasus region. The family background of his parents is vividly brought to life in the opening chapters of *August*, and in the later *Red Wheel* novels. On 15 June, shortly after her pregnancy was confirmed, Isaakiy was killed in a hunting accident. Aleksandr was raised by his widowed mother and his aunt in lowly circumstances. His earliest years coincided with the Russian Civil War. By the family property had been turned into a collective farm. His educated mother who never remarried encouraged his literary and scientific learnings and raised him in the Russian Orthodox faith; [11] [12] she died in . This eventually led to the novel *August*; some of the chapters he wrote then still survive. At the same time he took correspondence courses from the Moscow Institute of Philosophy, Literature and History, at this time heavily ideological in scope. As he himself makes clear, he did not question the state ideology or the superiority of the Soviet Union until he spent time in the camps. He was awarded the Order of the Red Star on 8 July for sound-ranging two German artillery batteries and adjusting counterbattery fire onto them, resulting in their destruction. The noncombatants and the elderly were robbed of their meager possessions and women and girls were gang-raped to death. A few years later, in the forced labor camp, he memorized a poem titled "Prussian Nights" about these incidents. In this poem, which describes the gang-rape of a Polish woman whom the Red Army soldiers mistakenly thought to be a German, the first-person narrator comments on the events with sarcasm and refers to the responsibility of official Soviet writers like Ilya Ehrenburg. He was accused of anti-Soviet propaganda under Article 58 paragraph 10 of the Soviet criminal code, and of "founding a hostile organization" under paragraph . On 9 May, it was announced that Germany had surrendered and all of Moscow broke out in celebrations with fireworks and searchlights illuminating the sky to celebrate the victory in the Great Patriotic War as Russians call the war with Germany. There was no rejoicing in our cells and no hugs and no kisses for us. That victory was not ours". This was the normal sentence for most crimes under Article 58 at the time. During his imprisonment at the camp in the town of Ekibastuz in Kazakhstan, he worked as a miner, bricklayer, and foundry foreman. One of his fellow political prisoners, Ion Moraru, remembers that Solzhenitsyn spent some of his time at Ekibastuz writing. His cancer was not diagnosed at the time. In March, after his sentence ended, Solzhenitsyn was sent to internal exile for life at Birlik, [27] a village in Baidibek district of South Kazakhstan region of Kazakhstan Kok-terek rural district. In, he was permitted to be treated in a hospital in Tashkent, where his tumor went into remission. His experiences there became the basis of his novel *Cancer Ward* and also found an echo in the short story "The Right Hand". It was during this decade of imprisonment and exile that Solzhenitsyn abandoned Marxism and developed the philosophical and religious positions of his later life, gradually becoming a philosophically-minded Eastern Orthodox Christian as a result of his experience in prison and the camps. These "early" works, largely unknown in the West, were published for the first time in Russian in and excerpted in English in . They divorced in, a year before his release, because wives of Gulag prisoners faced loss of work or residence permits. After the end of his internal exile, they remarried in, [36] divorcing a second time in . The following year Solzhenitsyn married his second wife, Natalia Dmitrievna Svetlova, a mathematician who had a son from a brief prior marriage. Yermolai, Ignat, and Stepan . Following his return from exile, Solzhenitsyn was, while teaching at a secondary school during the day, spending his nights secretly engaged in writing. In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech he wrote that "during all the years until, not only was I convinced I should never see a single line of mine in print in my lifetime, but, also, I scarcely dared allow any of my close acquaintances to read anything I had written because I feared this would become known. It was published in edited form in, with the explicit approval of Nikita Khrushchev, who defended it at the presidium of the Politburo hearing on whether to allow its publication, and added: We must root out this evil. These would be the last of his works published in the Soviet Union until . It caused as much of a sensation in the Soviet Union as it did in the

Westâ€™not only by its striking realism and candor, but also because it was the first major piece of Soviet literature since the s on a politically charged theme, written by a non-party member, indeed a man who had been to Siberia for "libelous speech" about the leaders, and yet its publication had been officially permitted. Most Soviet readers realized this, but after Khrushchev had been ousted from power in , the time for such raw exposing works came to an end. Andrei Kirilenko , a Politburo member. Solzhenitsyn made an unsuccessful attempt, with the help of Tvardovsky, to get his novel Cancer Ward legally published in the Soviet Union. This had to get the approval of the Union of Writers. Though some there appreciated it, the work ultimately was denied publication unless it was to be revised and cleaned of suspect statements and anti-Soviet insinuations. Meanwhile, Solzhenitsyn continued to secretly and feverishly work upon the most well-known of all his writings, The Gulag Archipelago. The seizing of his novel manuscript first made him desperate and frightened, but gradually he realized that it had set him free from the pretenses and trappings of being an "officially acclaimed" writer, something which had come close to second nature, but which was becoming increasingly irrelevant. In , he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. He could not receive the prize personally in Stockholm at that time, since he was afraid he would not be let back into the Soviet Union. Instead, it was suggested he should receive the prize in a special ceremony at the Swedish embassy in Moscow. The Swedish government refused to accept this solution because such a ceremony and the ensuing media coverage might upset the Soviet Union and damage Swedish-Soviet relations. Instead, Solzhenitsyn received his prize at the ceremony after he had been expelled from the Soviet Union. The Gulag Archipelago was composed from to It was a three-volume, seven part work on the Soviet prison camp system Solzhenitsyn never had all seven parts of the work in front of him at one time. The Gulag Archipelago has sold over thirty million copies in thirty-five languages. An editorial in Pravda on 14 January accused Solzhenitsyn of supporting "Hitlerites" and making "excuses for the crimes of the Vlasovites and Bandera gangs. The attempt left him seriously ill but was unsuccessful. He was given an honorary Literary Degree from Harvard University in and on Thursday, 8 June , he gave his Commencement Address, condemning, among other things, the press, the lack of spirituality and traditional values as well as anthropocentrism in Western culture. By , four "knots" parts had been completed and he had also written several shorter works. Despite spending almost two decades in the United States, Solzhenitsyn did not become fluent in spoken English. He had, however, been reading English-language literature since his teens, encouraged by his mother. At the same time, liberals and secularists became increasingly critical of what they perceived as his reactionary preference for Russian nationalism and the Russian Orthodox religion. Solzhenitsyn also harshly criticised what he saw as the ugliness and spiritual vapidness of the dominant pop culture of the modern West, including television and much of popular music: In a major speech delivered to the International Academy of Philosophy in Liechtenstein on 14 September , Solzhenitsyn implored the West not to "lose sight of its own values, its historically unique stability of civic life under the rule of lawâ€™a hard-won stability which grants independence and space to every private citizen. He called for Russia to "renounce all mad fantasies of foreign conquest and begin the peaceful long, long long period of recuperation," as he put it in a BBC interview with Janis Sapiets. Among other active measures, at least three StB agents became translators and secretaries of Solzhenitsyn one of them translated the poem Prussian Nights , keeping KGB informed regarding all contacts by Solzhenitsyn. Among other things, the writer constantly received envelopes with photographs of car accidents, brain surgery and other frightening illustrations. His influence and moral authority for the West diminished as he became increasingly isolated and critical of Western individualism. KGB and CPSU experts finally concluded that he alienated American listeners by his "reactionary views and intransigent criticism of the US way of life", so no further active measures would be required. Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia after nearly 20 years in exile. In , his Soviet citizenship was restored, and, in , he returned to Russia with his wife, Natalia, who had become a United States citizen. Their sons stayed behind in the United States later, his oldest son Yermolai returned to Russia. From then until his death, he lived with his wife in a dacha in Troitse-Lykovo in west Moscow between the dachas once occupied by Soviet leaders Mikhail Suslov and Konstantin Chernenko. A staunch believer in traditional Russian culture, Solzhenitsyn expressed his disillusionment with post-Soviet Russia in works such as Rebuilding Russia, and called for the establishment

of a strong presidential republic balanced by vigorous institutions of local self-government. The latter would remain his major political theme. Once back in Russia Solzhenitsyn hosted a television talk show program. Solzhenitsyn in The Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn Center supports explorations into the life and writings of the author and hosts the official English-language site dedicated Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. The center strives to advance the legacy of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in the English-speaking world through the promotion of a better understanding of his life, thought, and works. Views on history and politics[ edit ] "Men have forgotten God"[ edit ] Regarding atheism, Solzhenitsyn declared: Over a half century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of old people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: It has nothing to do with blood. He bears some resemblance to Fyodor Dostoyevsky , who was a fervent Christian and patriot. Solzhenitsyn himself claims that the essay consists of manuscripts stolen from him, and then manipulated, forty years ago. He defended moderate and self-critical patriotism as opposed to extreme nationalism , urged local self-government to a free Russia, and expressed concerns for the fate of the 25 million ethnic Russians in the " near abroad " of the former Soviet Union. The elder political generation in communist countries is not ready for repentance, while the new generation is only too happy to voice grievances and level accusations, with present-day Moscow [as] a convenient target. They behave as if they heroically liberated themselves and lead a new life now, while Moscow has remained communist. Nevertheless, I dare [to] hope that this unhealthy phase will soon be over, that all the peoples who have lived through communism will understand that communism is to blame for the bitter pages of their history. Do those convinced pacifists hear the moans coming from there? This resulted in Soviet domination and oppression of the nations of Eastern Europe. Solzhenitsyn claimed the Western democracies apparently cared little about how many died in the East, as long as they could end the war quickly and painlessly for themselves in the West. Delivering the commencement address at Harvard University in , he called the United States spiritually weak and mired in vulgar materialism. Americans, he said, speaking in Russian through a translator, suffered from a "decline in courage" and a "lack of manliness. He condemned both the United States government and American society for its "hasty" capitulation in the Vietnam War. He said that the West erred in measuring other civilizations by its own model. While faulting Soviet society for denying fair legal treatment of people, he also faulted the West for being too legalistic: At one fell stroke, these families could be torn apart by a new dividing line, the border of a military bloc. He asserted that Imperial Russia did not practice any real censorship in the style of the Soviet Glavlit , [92] that political prisoners typically were not forced into labor camps , [93] and that the number of political prisoners and exiles was only one ten-thousandth of those in the Soviet Union. He also compared the Vendean rebels with the Russian, Ukrainian, and Cossack peasants who rebelled against the Bolsheviks, saying that both were destroyed mercilessly by revolutionary despotism. However, he commented that, while the French Reign of Terror ended with the toppling of the Jacobins and the execution of Maximilien Robespierre , its Soviet equivalent continued to accelerate until the Khrushchev thaw of the s. He believed that all the traditional culture of all ethnic groups were equally oppressed in favor of an atheism and Marxistâ€”Leninism. Russian culture was even more repressed than any other culture in the Soviet Union, since the regime was more afraid of ethnic uprisings among Russian Christians than among any other ethnicity.

Chapter 5 : Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn - Wikipedia

*Stephen Kotkin: Sphere of Influence I - The Gift of Geopolitics: How Worlds are Made, and Unmade - Duration: IWMVienna 54, views.*

The Gulag Archipelago [ edit ] I dedicate this to all those who did not live to tell it. And may they please forgive me for not having seen it all nor remembered it all, for not having divined all of it. Dedication For years, I have with a reluctant heart withheld from publication this already completed book: But now that State Security has seized the book anyway, I have no alternative but to publish it immediately. Each of us is the center of the Universe, and that Universe is shattered when they hiss at you, "You are under arrest. Or if, during periods of mass arrests, as for example in Leningrad, when they arrested a quarter of the entire city, people had not simply sat there in their lairs, paling with terror at every bang of the downstairs door and at every step on the staircase, but had understood they had nothing left to lose and had boldly set up in the downstairs hall an ambush of half a dozen people with axes, hammers, polkers, or whatever else was at hand? But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart? During the life of any heart this line keeps changing place; sometimes it is squeezed one way by exuberant evil and sometimes it shifts to allow enough space for good to flourish. One and the same human being is, at various ages, under various circumstances, a totally different human being. At times he is close to being a devil, at times to sainthood. From good to evil is one quaver, says the proverb. And correspondingly, from evil to good. What we remember is not what actually happened, not history , but merely that hackneyed dotted line they have chosen to drive into our memories by incessant hammering. What we remember is not what actually happened, not history, but merely that hackneyed dotted line they have chosen to drive into our memories by incessant hammering. Can a man do without ideas of his own about good and evil, and merely derive them from the printed instructions and verbal orders of his superiors? Those solemn pledges pronounced with a tremor in the voice and intended to defend the people against evildoers: Part V, Katorga, Ch. But among them was there ever so multimillioned foul a deed as this: That Spring Governments were never moral beings. That Spring There is a dispute here: In his instructions on the use of Red Terror, the Chekist M. The first questions should be: What is his class, what is his origin, what is his education and upbringing? The seeds expanded, grew mouldy and died. The vast fields stayed empty throughout the year. He accused the agronomists of being kulaks and distorting his technology. And the agronomists were sent to Siberia. However, our political courts â€” the special collegia of provincial courts, the military tribunals and why, actually, should there be military tribunals in peacetime anyway? They, too, did not get stuck in the mud of public trials or in arguments between sides. Their primary and principal distinguishing feature was closed doors. They were first of all closed courts â€” for their own convenience. And by now we have become so accustomed to the fact that millions and millions of people were tried in closed sessions and have become used to this for so long that now and then some mixed-up son, brother, or nephew of a prisoner will even snort at you with conviction: Our enemies will find out! Who in our Fatherland, except some bookworms, remembers now that Karakozov, who fired at the Tsar, was provided with a defense lawyer? Or that Zhelyabov and all the Narodnaya Volga group were tried in public, without any fear that the "Turks would find out? According to them, hard labour is one of the highest forms of the passionate conscious creation. The editor-in-chief took the floor as well. By giving a speech during the last gathering of the canal labourers in Dmitrov they had already been transferred to Volga canal on August 25, , Gorky said: There were many prisoners [â€¦] who, during the first days of war, wrote petitions: They had tasted the thickest, the most stinking camp swill â€” and then pleaded to be sent in the front line to defend the same camp system, to die for it in the penalty company! And how they then storm and scramble, looking for fish heads, bones, the waste of vegetables. And how one expiring person is being killed in the scuffle. And what does their word "frayer" mean? Frayer means allhuman, something that every normal human being has. A flat was despoiled, everything that a family had saved throughout the life time was taken away with a truck? If there was no murder, then up to ten years, sometimes â€” 6 months Private property is a survival from the reactionary past. But this is really unjustified

mildness! And the Presidium clarifies in the course of war flames: And in concord with the prosecutor, the Supreme Court is being clarified: From the twelfth year on, out of carelessness " and up to the sentence to death! So was it even told at the lectures on law held for the people " Tallinn, Dr Uusmaa had known a six year old boy, who was in the colony on the ground of paragraph 58 " this is obviously a record! She was penalized only 3 years with the extenuating circumstances of not having plundered the socialist property directly from field or cornloft. Work fine and you shall be buried in coffin as well! Part IV[ edit ] A duel with years and with walls constitutes moral work and a path upward if you can climb it. Looking back, I saw that for my whole conscious life I had not understood either myself or my strivings. What had seemed for so long beneficial now turned out in actuality to be fatal, and I had been striving to go in the opposite direction to that which was truly necessary to me. But just as the waves of the sea knock the inexperienced swimmer off his feet and keep tossing him back on to the shore, so also was I painfully tossed back on dry land by the blows of misfortune. And it was only because of this that I was able to travel the path which I had always really wanted to travel. It was granted me to carry away from my prison years on my bent back, which nearly broke beneath its load, this essential experience: In the intoxication of youthful successes I had felt myself to be infallible, and I was therefore cruel. In the surfeit of power I was a murderer and an oppressor. In my most evil moments I was convinced that I was doing good, and I was well supplied with systematic arguments. And it was only when I lay there rotting on prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good. Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either - but right through every human heart - and through all human hearts. Inside us it oscillates with the years. And even within the hearts overwhelmed with evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained. And even in the best of all hearts, there remains"an un-uprooted small corner of evil. Since then I have come to understand the truth of all the religions on the world. They struggle with the evil inside a human being inside every human being. It is impossible to expel evil from the world in its entirety, but it is possible to constrict it within each person. And since that time I have come to understand the falsehood of all the revolutions of history: And they take to themselves as their heritage the actual evil itself, magnified still more. Prison causes the profound rebirth of a human being Here all the trivia and fuss have decreased. I have experienced a turning point. Here you harken to that voice deep inside you, which amid the surfeit and vanity used to be stifled by the roar from outside Your soul, which formerly was dry, now ripens from suffering Remember everything you did that was bad and shameful and take thought "can you possible correct it now? Yes, you have been imprisoned for nothing. And the only solution to this would be that the meaning of earthly existence lies not, as we have grown used to thinking, in prospering, but in the development of the soul In the surfeit of power I was a murderer, and an oppressor. I was convinced that I was doing good. And it was only when I lay there on rotting prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good Lev Tolstoi was right when he dreamed of being put in prison. At certain moment the giant began to dry up. He actually needed prison as a drought needs a shower of rain And I say without hesitation: In prison, both in solitary confinement and outside solitary too, a human being confronts his grief face to face. This grief is a mountain, but he has to find space inside himself for it, to familiarize himself with it, to digest it, and it him. This is the highest form of moral effort, which has always ennobled every human being. A duel with years and with walls constitutes moral work and a path upward if you can climb it. And if those who came had not been so hopelessly asinine and arrogant, had not kept the Kolkhoz administration comfortable for the Greater Germany, had not invented such a disgust as turning Russia into a colony, then the national idea would not have concentrated there where it was being strangled all the time, and hardly would it have been possible to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Russian Communism. And they could be conducted without a code. We have already had an opportunity to observe that the separation of church and state was so construed by the state that the churches themselves and everything that hung in them, was installed in them and painted in them, belonged to the state, and the only church remaining was that church which, in accordance with the Scriptures, lay within the heart. And in , when political victory seemed to have been attained faster and more easily than had been expected, they had pressed right on to confiscate church property. However, this leap had aroused too fierce a wave of popular indignation.

Chapter 6 : The Gulag Archipelago - Wikiquote

*Buy The Gulag Archipelago, Part 1 & 2, First Edition by Aleksandr Isaevich Solzhenitsyn (ISBN: ) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices and free delivery on eligible orders.*

Early after his arrest he made it his goal to catalogue his experiences and those of the people he met there, and to write this book to give the world and in particular the people of his country a glimpse of the nature of this system and the fate of those millions who had been caught up in it. For his efforts, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Literature in 1970.

Chapter 1 – Arrest For those destined for the Gulag, the start of their journey was arrest. The state security Organs preferred night arrests, a knock on the door at night which would catch their victim unprepared and with little resistance from witnesses. Those in the camps later burned thinking about how different things would have been if people had simply resisted rather than submit so meekly. And yet, at which point would you resist? Some still hoped for a favorable outcome to their case and are afraid to ruin their chances by an outcry. For several decades political arrests were distinguished in our country precisely by the fact that people were guilty of nothing and were therefore unprepared to put up any resistance whatsoever. A person who is not inwardly prepared for the use of violence against him is always weaker than the person committing the violence. The list is simply staggering, with some examples being: The Technical Intelligentsia ie. Engineers In other words we never did trust the engineers and from the very first years of the Revolution we saw to it that those lackeys and servants of former capitalist bosses were kept in line by healthy suspicion and surveillance by the workers. The Sentinel of the Revolution [ie. State Security] narrowed its eyes with ever greater vigilance, and wherever it directed its narrowed gaze it immediately discovered a nest of wreckers. This therapy continued full speed from on, and immediately exposed to the proletariat all the causes of our economic failures and shortages Page A. And what accomplished villains these old engineers were! What diabolical ways to sabotage they found! One such pernicious piece of advice was to increase the size of freight trains and not worry about heavier than average loads. The GPU exposed von Meck, and he was shot: They raised the outcry that this was too much, and would result in the breakdown of the rolling stock, and they were rightly shot for their lack of faith in the possibilities of socialist transport. Page At the time these engineers were being rounded up, the masses of people showed their support in voting for the death penalty for these wreckers. The Dispossessed Kulaks In sheer size this nonrecurring tidal wave swelled beyond the bounds of anything the penal system of even an immense state can permit itself. Gradually, the term took on a broader and broader meaning: Then suddenly there were kulaks and there were poor peasants. How could that be? Sometimes it was the result of differences in initial stock and equipment; sometimes it may have resulted from luck in the mixture of the family. And now these peasants, whose breadgrain had fed Russia in , were hastily uprooted by local good-for-nothings and city people sent in from outside. Page 56 This was also a time for activists and neighbors to settle personal accounts, of jealousy, envy or insult. Article 58 of the Criminal Code This chapter also gives our first introduction to Article 58 of the Criminal Code of , an Article whose sections are so broad that almost any human activity could be captured within them, some examples: An action or absence of action directed toward the weakening of state power Section Propaganda or agitation, containing an appeal for the overthrow, subverting, or weakening of Soviet power and, equally, the dissemination or preparation or possession of literary materials of similar content The real law underlying the arrests over those years was the assignment of quotas ie. The Interrogation Because virtually all of the people being caught up in the Gulag system were essentially innocent, the interrogation was an important part of the process, in order to gain a confession from the subject and to get him or her to implicate others. In this chapter A. The time allotted for investigation was not used to unravel the case but, in 95 cases out of , to exhaust, wear down, weaken and render helpless the defendant, so that he would want it to end at any cost Page 97 Stalin himself did not pronounce that final word [torture] in his instructions, his subordinates had to guess what he wanted. So no list of tortures and torments existed in printed form. All that was required was for every Interrogation Department to supply the tribunal within a specified period with a stipulated number of confessions. This explained the variety of different techniques

employed at different interrogation centers. When interrogation begins, for many people the logical thing would seem to be to simply sign the confession, knowing that a guilty conviction is inevitable, so as to preserve your strength and health before heading to an inevitable term at a camp. And that would be the smart choice if the matter concerned only yourself. However – this was rarely the case, as prisoners were frequently pressured to accuse others. Some of the more pervasive techniques are outlined below: Prisoners would often be deprived of sleep for days at a time. Denied food or put on starvation rations Punishment Cells: Prisoners can spend days in such cells. Beatings of all types, often with rubber truncheons in order to leave fewer visible marks. Sleep deprivation along with starvation and punishment cells is plenty enough for most people to confess. He notes during the chapter how ruthless the Soviet state was in dealing with interrogations, in contrast to what the Revolutionaries had been put through in Tsarist times, many of whom nonetheless buckled under the slightest pressure. He informed them only that the manuscripts found at his place had been brought to him in one package for safekeeping several days before the search by a certain person whom he did not wish to name. What about icy water up to the ankles? Or a salt-water douche? Page The key to making the best of your interrogation, as we learn from A. We learn about his own interrogation at a prison in Moscow. Luckily, the investigators were too lazy to go through his stash of notes and diaries, and they were eventually poured into the prison furnace. This included his years of notes which had been meant to be the basis of a future novel. In notebooks, in file folders, in homemade binders, in tied and untied bundles, and simply in loose pages. And brotherly pity ached in me for the labor of that unknown person who had been arrested the previous night, these spoils from the search of his premises having been dumped that very morning on the parquet floor of the torture chamber, at the feet of that thirteen-foot Stalin. I sat there and I wondered: Whose extraordinary life had they brought in for torment, for dismemberment, and then for burning? Oh, how many ideas and works had perished in that building -a whole lost culture? Oh, soot, soot, from the Lubyanka chimneys! And the most hurtful thing of all was that our descendants would consider our generation more stupid, less gifted, less vocal than in actual fact it was. Page When A. When his confession is ultimately presented for his signature, A. However after his interrogator threatens to start all over again with him, he loses his nerve and signs, including the Section Author admin Posted on.

**Chapter 7 : The Gulag Archipelago, (Part 1) by Alexander Solzhenitsyn | eBay**

*Gulag Archipelago Ch 1: Arrest - Part 1 This is the first episode on Chapter 1: Arrest from The Gulag Archipelago by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Solzhenitsyn looks at how arrest interrupts the life of the person taken off the street or out of their apartments or from their workplaces or off the train and the mindset behind.*

At one level, the Gulag Archipelago traces the history of the system of forced labor camps that existed in the Soviet Union from to Solzhenitsyn begins with V. Note 1 The book then describes and discusses the waves of purges and the assembling of show trials in the context of the development of the greater Gulag system; Solzhenitsyn gives particular attention to its purposive legal and bureaucratic development. Despite the efforts by Solzhenitsyn and others to confront the legacy of the Gulag, the realities of the camps remained a taboo subject until the s. Solzhenitsyn was also aware that although many practices had been stopped, the basic structure of the system had survived and it could be revived and expanded by future leaders. Solzhenitsyn also waxes philosophical: Yes, even Iago was a little lamb, too. Because they had no ideology. Ideology "that is what gives evildoing its long-sought justification and gives the evildoer the necessary steadfastness and determination. That was how the agents of the Inquisition fortified their wills: Without evildoers there would have been no Archipelago. Solzhenitsyn spent time as an inmate at a sharashka or scientific prison, an experience that he also used as the basis of the novel The First Circle. However, the ultimate integrity and authority of The Gulag Archipelago is rooted in the first-hand testimony of fellow prisoners. The sheer volume of firsthand testimony and primary documentation that Solzhenitsyn managed to assemble in this work made all subsequent Soviet and KGB attempts to discredit the work useless. Much of the impact of the treatise stems from the closely detailed stories of interrogation routines, prison indignities and especially in section 3 camp massacres and inhuman practices. Solzhenitsyn also poetically re-introduces his character of Ivan Denisovich towards the conclusion of the book. One chapter of the third volume of the book was written by a prisoner named Georg Tenno, whose exploits so amazed Solzhenitsyn to the extent that he offered to name Tenno as co-author of the book; Tenno declined. However, never before had the general reading public been brought face to face with the horrors of the Gulag in this way. This is significant, as many Western intellectuals viewed the Soviet concentration camp system as a "Stalinist aberration". The government could not govern without the threat of imprisonment. The Soviet economy depended on the productivity and output of the forced labor camps, especially insofar as the development and construction of public works and infrastructure were concerned. In Western Europe , the book eventually contributed strongly to the need for a rethinking of the historical role of Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, Lenin. Kennan , the influential U. Solzhenitsyn entrusted Susi with the original typed and proofread manuscript of the finished work, after copies had been made of it both on paper and on microfilm. News of the nature of the work immediately caused a stir, and translations into many other languages followed within the next few months, sometimes produced in a race against time. American Thomas Whitney produced the English version; the English and French translations of Volume I appeared in the spring and summer of Solzhenitsyn had wanted the manuscript to be published in Russia first, but knew this was impossible under conditions then extant. The work had a profound effect internationally. Not only did it provoke energetic debate in the West; a mere six weeks after the work had left Parisian presses Solzhenitsyn himself was forced into exile. Because possession of the manuscript incurred the risk of a long prison sentence for "anti-Soviet activities", Solzhenitsyn never worked on the manuscript in complete form. Since he was under constant KGB surveillance, Solzhenitsyn worked on only parts of the manuscript at any one time, so as not to put the full book into jeopardy if he happened to be arrested. For this reason, he secreted the various parts of the work throughout Moscow and the surrounding suburbs, in the care of trusted friends. Sometimes when he was purportedly visiting them on social calls he actually worked on the manuscript in their homes. During much of this time, Solzhenitsyn lived at the dacha of the world-famous cellist Mstislav Rostropovich , and due to the reputation and standing of the musician, despite the elevated scrutiny of the Soviet authorities, Solzhenitsyn was reasonably safe from KGB searches there. Solzhenitsyn did not think this series would be his defining work, as he considered it journalism and history rather than high

literature. Solzhenitsyn was aware that there was a wealth of material and perspectives that deserved to be continued in the future[ clarification needed ], but he considered the book finished for his part. The royalties and sales income for the book were transferred to the Solzhenitsyn Aid Fund for aid to former camp prisoners, and this fund, which had to work in secret in its native country, managed to transfer substantial amounts of money to those ends in the s and s. She wrote that she was "perplexed" that the Western media had accepted The Gulag Archipelago as "the solemn, ultimate truth", saying that its significance had been "overestimated and wrongly appraised". She said that her husband did not regard the work as "historical research, or scientific research", and added that The Gulag Archipelago was a collection of "camp folklore", containing "raw material" which her husband was planning to use in his future productions. Wheatcroft asserts that it is essentially a "literary and political work", and "never claimed to place the camps in a historical or social-scientific quantitative perspective". The documentary covers events related to the writing and publication of The Gulag Archipelago.

### Chapter 8 : The Gulag Archipelago â€™ Vol 1 â€™ Chapter (Post 2) â€™ Lloyd's Notes

*The Gulag Archipelago Volume 1: An Experiment in Literary Investigation by Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn "BEST NONFICTION BOOK OF THE 20 TH CENTURY" â€™ Time Volume 1 of the gripping epic masterpiece, Solzhenitsyn's chilling report of his arrest and interrogation, which exposed to the world the vast bureaucracy of secret police that haunted.*

### Chapter 9 : The Gulag Archipelago â€™ Vol 1 â€™ Chapter (Post 1) â€™ Lloyd's Notes

*This version, the red-covered Volume 1 of the Gulag Archipelago DOES have authors notes, and lots of them. However, the abridged version which is by the same publisher and has a similar cover to this book, does not have author's notes obviously.*