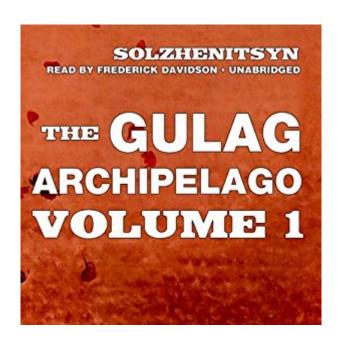
# The book was found

# 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**

**Audible Audio Edition** 

Listening Length: 26 hours and 1 minute

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: August 30, 2011

Language: English

ASIN: B005K16UAS

Best Sellers Rank: #106 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Europe #127 in Books >

History > Asia > Russia #303 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences >

Criminology

### Customer Reviews

"The line between good and evil runs through the heart of every human being." This abridged edition of Solzhenitsyn's hauntingly intimate portrait of his own arrest, interrogation, imprisonment, rebellion, and eventual release during Stalin's purges is a book like no other. This book, written by a constantly watched and persecuted dissident - bent but not broken by the brutality of Stalinist work camps, shares the author's (and his other inmates') personal experiences falling into this dark, usually fatal, abyss. Solzhenitsyn's original work was published in 1971 and produced an absolutely damning indictment of communism in Russia. Indeed, the stunning quality and importance of his writing earned him a Nobel prize. Besides his own experiences, Solzhenitsyn collected personal stories from hundreds of his fellow inmates. The sadism of interrogators, the cruelty of guards, the indifference of neighbors, the paranoia of the public, the betrayal of stoolies, and the true comradery of innocent inmates are presented in vivid, factual detail. In addition to this, the author also presents

an encyclopeadic knowledge of the entirety of the gigantic Stalinist security apparatus (normal labor camps, special labor camps, transfer camps, railroad transfers, prisons, holding cells, interrogation cells, NKVD, SMERSH, commissars, exile communities, and still more). But at the heart of it all, the book remains an unforgettable journey through man-made hell. Stalin meant to destroy every man, woman, and child arrested, regardless of their innocence, and he largely succeeded. But survivors like Solzhenitsyn did truly 'tear down the wall' and made this world a far better place to live in. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude!

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.

How thin is the veil we call Civilization!! This book is indeed a tedious read by virtue of its length. However, Solzhenitsyn's history is written with the prosaic style of a Tolstoy or Dostoyevsky. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was a Captain in the Soviet Army as it charged through Nazi occupied Poland when he was arrested on trumped-up charges in February 1945. Thus began his odyssey through Gulag, "the country within a country". The perpetually weak economy of Communism could not survive without the forced labor of millions of is own citizens who became prisoners for one reason or another, or no reason at all. Solzhenitsyn relates his own experiences as well as those of other prisoners with whom he became acquainted while incarcerated. He relates how ordinary Russians were arrested and charged with fraudulent charges (if charged at all), interrogated, tortured and forced to confess under extreme duress, and sent off to labor for the good of the Motherland. Throughout the book, Solzhenitsyn asks the reader incredulously, "how did we let this happen?" That is no doubt one of the most important questions posed in all of human history. If we study history in order to prevent the repetition of our mistakes, then Solzhenitsyn's work should be required reading of all residents of Planet Earth.

It is hard to measure how profound a book like this is, because it covers such a wide range of

subjects almost subtlely. The things that you are likely to remember are the descriptions of torture, the small amounts of food, and so forth. What you remember is the things that made you cringe, and realise that you probably would have given up had you been placed in the same situation. But as Solzhenitsyn tried repeatedly to bring out, it was the so-called "little" things that really either killed you, or gave you hope. As an example, many people might recall the sticking of hot metal up certain areas of the human anatomy; but as Solzehnitsyn said, this was most often not necessary. Seemingly mundane (relatively speaking) things like sleep deprivation was enough to drive even the most stable men insane. It was not the hot flash of pain that would get most people, but the exhaustion of wakefulness. Monotony could be every bit as much your enemy as freezing temperatures; and it was just as likely to send you to your death. These are but two examples, Solzehnitsyn gives up many more. If there is any book that can and should be read by everyone, it is this book. One need not be interested in communism, political theory, or such things for this book to have meaning. This book is above all about the human condition. It is a biograpy and autobiography about every man who has ever suffered greatly, and it is a lesson to every man who has never suffered greatly.

### Download to continue reading...

The Gulag Archipelago, Volume I: The Prison Industry and Perpetual Motion The Woman's Secret of a Happy Life Perpetual Calendar: Inspired by the Beloved Classic by Hannah Whitall Smith (365) Perpetual Calendars) God Hearts Me Perpetual Calendar: 365 Refreshing Reminders of God's Love (365 Perpetual Calendars) Playing with Purpose Perpetual Calendar: (365 Perpetual Calendars) PRISON: what to expect in Federal Bureau of Prisons (Prison series Book 1) Against All Hope: A Memoir of Life in Castro's Gulag Danzig Baldaev: Drawings from the Gulag The Hawaiian Archipelago: Six Months Among the Palm Groves, Coral Reefs and Volcanoes of the Sandwich Islands The Order of Sounds: A Sonorous Archipelago (Mono) Kayaking the Keys: 50 Great Paddling Adventures in Florida's Southernmost Archipelago Motion Simulation and Mechanism Design with SolidWorks Motion 2013 Motion Simulation and Mechanism Design with SOLIDWORKS Motion 2016 Design for Motion: Fundamentals and Techniques of Motion Design Step-by-Step Free-Motion Quilting: Turn 9 Simple Shapes into 80+ Distinctive Designs  $\tilde{A}\phi$   $\tilde{A}\phi$ Best-selling author of First Steps to Free-Motion Quilting A Question Of Intent: A Great American Battle With A Deadly Industry (Great American Battle with with a Deadly Industry) Perpetual Motivation: How to Light Your Fire and Keep It Burning in Your Career and in Life Spiritual Refreshment for Women: 365 Days of Inspiration and Encouragement (365 Perpetual Calendars) 365 Thoughts: A Daily Guide to Uplift and Inspire (Perpetual Calendar) Daily Wisdom for Women

Perpetual Calendar: 365 Days of Inspiration and Encouragement Know Your Bible Perpetual

Calendar: 365 Days of Explanation and Inspiration from the Two-Million-Copy Bestseller

<u>Dmca</u>