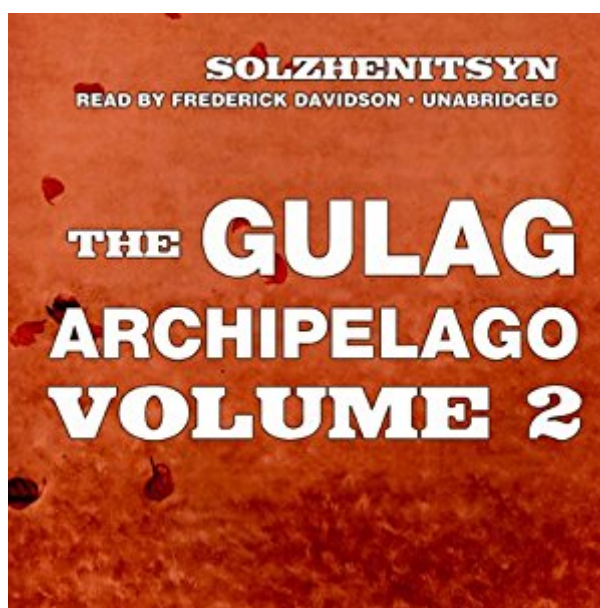


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The Gulag Archipelago, Volume II: The Destructive-Labor Camps And The Soul And Barbed Wire



Synopsis

This second volume in Solzhenitsyn's narrative chronicles the appalling inhumanity of the Soviets' "Destructive-Labor Camps" and the fate of prisoners in them-felling timber, building canals and railroads, and mining gold without equipment or adequate food or clothing, and subject always to the caprices of the camp authorities. Most tragic of all is the life of the women prisoners and the luckless children they bear. Once again, this chronicle of appalling inhumanity is made endurable by the vitality and emotional range of the writing. In one truly remarkable chapter, a parody of an anthropological treatise, Solzhenitsyn achieves new heights of sardonic wit. And in the final section, the music changes and he provides a magnificent coda on the possibilities of redemption and purification through suffering.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 27 hours 35 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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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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