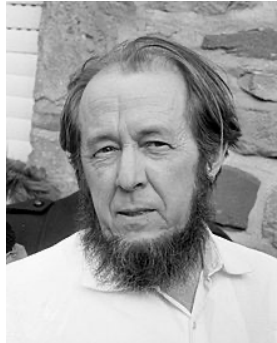


Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (11 December 1918 – 3 August 2008)

Russian novelist, philosopher, historian and political prisoner. He was one of the most famous Soviet dissidents, who, as an outspoken critic of Communism, helped to raise global awareness of Soviet war crimes, human rights abuses, and the Gulag concentration camp system where he spent 8 years imprisoned for criticizing Joseph Stalin.

His most significant writings include: the novel *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1962), *Cancer Ward* (1968) and *The Gulag Archipelago* (1973). He won the Nobel prize for literature in 1970, and lived in exile from his mother Russia in the USA from 1976 - 1994.

The Gulag Archipelago was a highly influential work that "amounted to a head-on challenge to the Soviet state" and sold tens of millions of copies. In this book he exposed the brutal network of concentration/forced labor work camps in Soviet Russia.

This book although initially banned, became required reading in Russian schools in 2009.

“Modern society is hypnotized by socialism. It is prevented by socialism from seeing the mortal danger it is in. And one of the greatest dangers of all is that you have lost all sense of danger, you cannot even see where it's coming from as it moves swiftly towards you.”

“Such as it is, the press has become the greatest power within the Western World, more powerful than the legislature, the executive and judiciary. One would like to ask; by whom has it been elected and to whom is it responsible?”

If I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible what was 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: 'Men had forgotten God; that is why all this has happened.'

"To destroy a people, you must first sever their roots".

"The strength or weakness of a society depends more on the level of its spiritual life than on its level of industrialization. Neither a market economy nor even general abundance constitutes the crowning achievement of human life. If a nation's spiritual energies have been exhausted, it will not be saved from collapse by the most perfect government structure or by any industrial development. A tree with a rotten core cannot stand."

*"It's an universal law-- intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility."
"The generation now coming out of Western schools is unable to distinguish good from bad. Even those words are unacceptable. This results in impaired thinking ability."*

"You can resolve to live your life with integrity. Let your credo be this: Let the lie come into the world, let it even triumph. But not through me."

"We hear a constant clamor for rights, rights, always rights, but so very little about responsibility. And we have forgotten God. The need now is for selflessness, for a spirit of sacrifice, for a willingness to put aside personal gains for the salvation of the whole Western world."

"If we live in a state of constant fear, can we remain human?"

"We have to condemn publicly the very idea that some people have the right to repress others... When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers ... we are ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations."

"Unlimited power in the hands of limited people always leads to cruelty."

"Socialism of any type leads to a total destruction of the human spirit..."

"A decline in courage may be the most striking feature that an outside observer notices in the West today. The Western world has lost its civic courage Such a decline in courage is particularly noticeable among the ruling and intellectual elite, causing an impression of a loss of courage by the entire society."