*The Gulag Archipelago*

***The Gulag Archipelago*** ([Russian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_language): Архипела́г ГУЛА́Г, *Arkhipelág GULÁG*) is a three-volume, non-fiction text written between 1958 and 1968 by Russian writer and historian [Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleksandr_Solzhenitsyn). It was first published in 1973, followed by an English translation the following year. It covers life in what is often known as the [gulag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulag), the [Communist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist) [Soviet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union) [forced labour camp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forced_labour_camp) system, through a narrative constructed from various sources including reports, interviews, statements, diaries, legal documents, and Solzhenitsyn's own experience as a gulag prisoner. In Russian, the term GULAG (ГУЛАГ) is an acronym for Main Directorate of Camps (Главное управление лагерей).

Following its publication, the book initially circulated in [*samizdat*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samizdat) underground publication in the Soviet Union until its appearance in the literary journal *[Novy Mir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novy_Mir" \o "Novy Mir)* in 1989, in which a third of the work was published in three issues.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gulag_Archipelago#cite_note-Pearce2011-1) Since the [dissolution of the Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Soviet_Union), *The Gulag Archipelago* has been officially published in Russia. An abridged fiftieth anniversary edition was released on 1 November 2018 with a new foreword by [Jordan Peterson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Peterson).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gulag_Archipelago#cite_note-2)

Jordan Peterson who’s podcast and lecture videos I watched references this a lot and holds this is high regard, the idea is that the author was a soldier for the Russian military, got put into a gulag and watched passive people who do not participate in doing the bad things all others do. This made him realize that each and every one of us is in some part responsible for the position in life he occupies and therefore he is also responsible for his, he took that principle to heart and started memorizing an entire book the he later wrote under serious government surveillance. The book is a meticulous taking apart of the entire life of that man which brought down the communist regime when people started reading it as people started to realize their part in keeping the system up and kicking.