

AP World History Summer Reading Assignment (2021-2022)

Primary Text

1: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, H. T. Willetts (Translator), *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux; Reprint Edition), 2014.

Additional Readings: (Selections from these texts will be provided to students in PDF format)

1: Golfo Alexopolos, *Illness and Inhumanity in Stalin's Gulag's* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017), Chapter 2: "Prisoners: The Contingent," (pp. 58-77).

2: Anne Applebaum, ed. *Gulag Voices: An Anthology* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011), Anatoly Zhigulin: "On Work," (pp. 91-100); Anatoly Marchenko: "The Cooler," (pp. 213-222)

Recommended Documentary: *Stalin in Color* (ZED Production: 2014), 55 minutes.

-YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtR1xrgs4Aw>

Due Date: Responses are due in class during the first day of school.

Collaboration Policy: Do not collaborate. This is an independent assignment. This means that you may not work with another student on the assignment. The work must be entirely your own.

Outside Sources: Do not consult outside sources such as Spark Notes or Cliff's Notes. If I suspect you have used Spark Notes or any other such outside source, I will consider it a disciplinary issue. However, you should be actively searching for pertinent background information on Google or Wikipedia to better understand the historical context/setting of the book; additionally, the Golfo Alexopolos chapter on "Prisoners" (supplemental reading #1 listed above) will also provide valuable insight into this period in Soviet history. **Key terms worth searching include:** Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn; Joseph Stalin; Soviet Union; Communism and Totalitarianism; GULAG system; "The Great Terror"; Kulak(s); Article 58; NKVD (Soviet Secret Police)

Grade: Your grade on the summer reading assignment is very important; please do not put this off to the last minute. The art of producing a good multi-sourced paper inherently requires that you start the process early, develop a preliminary outline for argument/structure/content, and create several written drafts to edit/revise before submitting your final copy.

Format: Each question should be answered in approximately 450-500 words. You must answer TWO questions total: Prompt #1 is **REQUIRED**; however, you may choose any ONE of the three remaining prompts (#2, #3, or #4) for your second response. Yes, some questions have multiple parts. And, yes, you need to reference specific examples from the text in each response to validate your analysis. All responses must to be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point, Times New Roman font. **PROOFREAD YOUR WORK!** There is nothing worse than sifting through poorly written papers. AP World History is all writing, so do not expect any reprieve from grammar and style.

Questions:

1: Compare Ivan's daily routine with those expressed by Anatoly Zhigulin and Anatoly Marchenko. Do the three writers offer more similarities or differences in their descriptions of camp life? Taken as a whole, how do their accounts fit within the broader historical context provided by Golfo Alexopolos in his chapter on "Prisoners"?

2: Discuss Ivan's background and how he ended up in the forced labor camps. To what extent are his struggles and experiences emblematic of "the common man" during this period in Soviet history?

3: How does an individual (Ivan) or group of individuals (Ivan and his work crew) deal with life in such an unjust system? What are some of the various survival methods they employ? Why do they attempt to maintain dignity and integrity even in the face of such horrific circumstances?

4: Why was this a "good" day for Ivan? What broader implications does this statement allude to regarding ordinary life during the Stalinist era?