



Postwar European Movements and Literature

● Feminism

- *Simone de Beauvoir*

● Philosophy

- *Jean-Paul Sartre*
- *Bertrand Russell*

● Science

- *Andrei Sakharov*
- *Albert Schweitzer*
- *Albert Einstein*

● Literature

- *George Orwell*
- *Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn*



Feminism...

Simone de Beauvoir (*“bo-vwar”*)

- 1908-1986
- French feminist
 - The major feminist writer in postwar Europe
 - active in France's women's liberation movement
 - signed the “Manifesto of the 343” in 1971, a list of famous women who claimed, mostly falsely, to have had an abortion
 - In 1974, abortion was legalized in France
- Part of the French intellectual establishment
 - Studied at the Sorbonne
 - Colleague of Jean-Paul Sartre, which lead her into existentialism
- *The Second Sex* (1949)



The Second Sex

- A declaration of independence for contemporary women
- detailed analysis of women's oppression
- Experience of women coming of age in a world shaped historically by men
- Men, since antiquity, had used education and social conditioning to create a dependent “other” who was not permitted to grow and strive for freedom
 - women throughout history have been defined as the “other” sex by men
 - men used this as an excuse not to understand women or their problems and not to help them and to subjugate them
 - Marriage was part of this unjust and undesirable process
- asserted that women are as capable of choice as men

A 3D grid of spheres on a blue background. The spheres are arranged in a regular, repeating pattern that recedes into the distance, creating a sense of depth. The spheres are light blue and have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The background is a solid, medium blue color.

Philosophy...

Jean-Paul Sartre

- 1905-1980
- French philosopher
- drafted into the French army during WWII and captured and held as a POW by the Germans
- Embraced communism, but became disillusioned with the Soviet Union after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution
 - went to Cuba in the 1960's to meet Fidel Castro and Ernesto "Che" Guevara
- became perhaps the most eminent supporter of the Algeria in their war of liberation
- Friend of feminist Simone de Beauvoir
- Believer in existentialism



Sartre

- What was it like to be human?
 - Its core elements included 3 freedoms:
 - the mind
 - The human mind was free (notably in its imagination) to think of ways the world could be different than it was
 - human values
 - People were free to come up with their own values and were not bound to anyone's else values
 - human freedom
 - Free to choose a form of life as they pleased as there was no such thing as human nature
 - These 3 freedoms added to what Sartre called “existentialism”
 - Split not just your mind from the world, but from everyone else's, too

A black and white photograph of a man in a suit walking, overlaid with a large white quote. The man is seen from the side, walking towards the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall and floor. The quote is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with the opening and closing quotation marks being significantly larger than the rest of the text.

**“MAN IS
NOTHING ELSE
BUT WHAT HE
MAKES OF
HIMSELF.”**

- JEAN PAUL SARTRE

Existentialism

- “the philosophy of Europe in the 20th century”
 - more as a style or attitude than a set of beliefs
 - what makes humans different from all other beings is the fact that we can choose what to do
 - independence, freedom, free will, individualism, non-conformity
 - shake off your inhibitions
 - strive to be authentic and live authentic lives
- Continuation of the revolt against reason that began with Friedrich Nietzsche in the 1800s
- Existentialists were protesting against a world in which reason, technology, and politics produced war and genocide

Existentialism

Synonyms

Individual
Isolation
Creative
Authentic
Non-conformity
Freedom of
Choice

Antonyms

Stereotype
Norms
Expectations
Labels
Conformity
Genre
Standards
Roles

Sartre

- awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1964
 - but he resoundingly declined it, stating that he had always refused official honors and didn't wish to align himself with institutions
- was arrested for civil disobedience during the student strikes in Paris in May 1968
 - His slogan "Power to the imagination" spurred on the students
 - Charles de Gaulle stepped in and pardoned him, commenting that *"you don't arrest Voltaire"*
- In 1948, the Roman Catholic Church placed his complete works on the Index of prohibited books

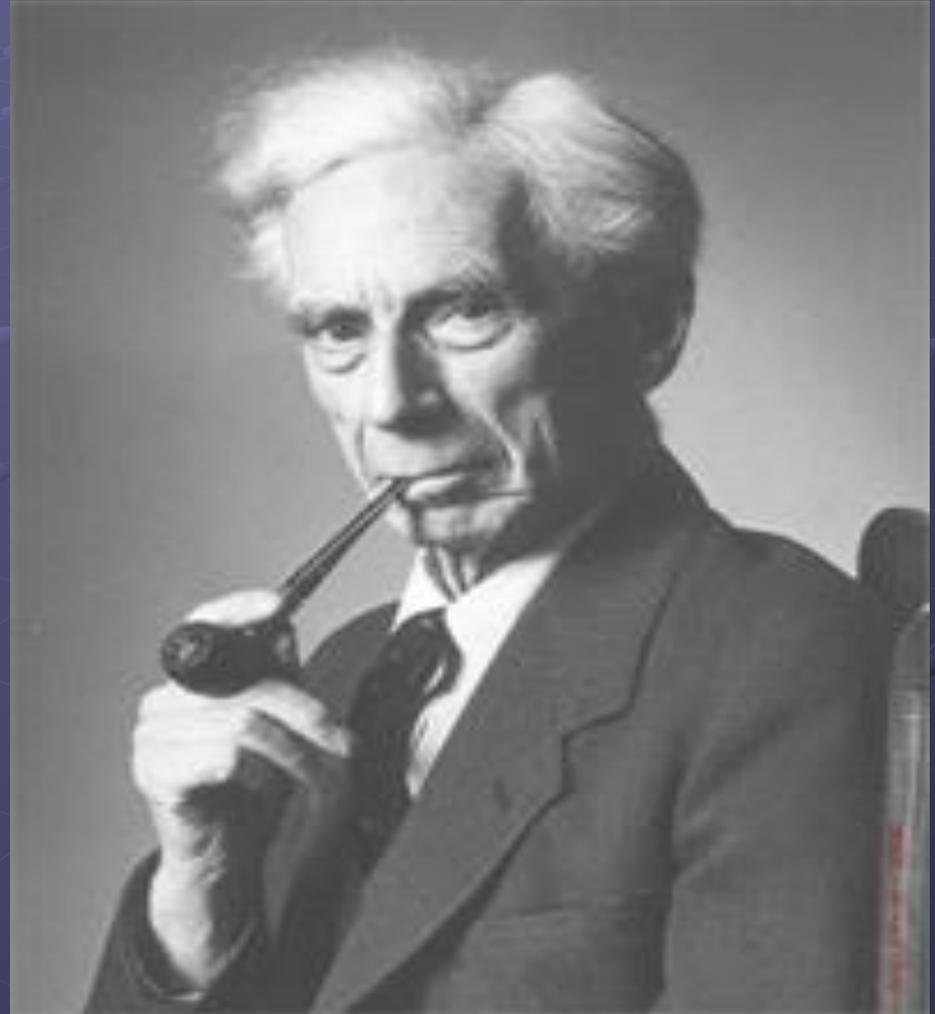
Albert Camus

- French Algerian intellectual and philosopher
 - Peer and friend of Sartre
- awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1957
- Staunch supporter of individual freedom
- Was a communist, anarchist, and existentialist at various times



Bertrand Russell

- 1872-1970
- British philosopher
- Advocate for social reform and an anti-war activist
 - During WWI, Russell was imprisoned for counseling young men on how to avoid conscription
 - Met Lenin in 1920 in Russia
- In 1950 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature



Russell

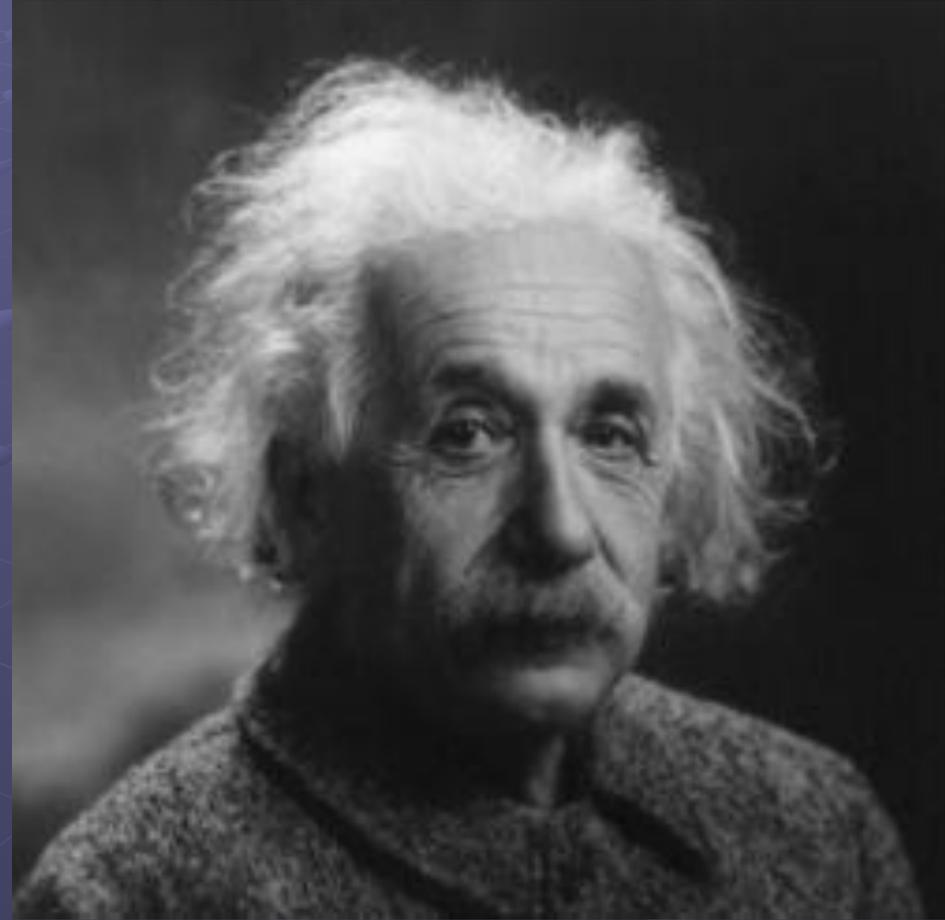
- In 1970 he condemned “Israeli aggression in the Middle East”
 - "We are frequently told that we must sympathize with Israel because of the suffering of the Jews in Europe at the hands of the Nazis. ... What Israel is doing today cannot be condoned, and to invoke the horror of the past to justify those of the present is gross hypocrisy."



Science...

Albert Einstein

- 1879-1955
- Born into a Jewish family in Germany
- Most well-known for being a physicist
- awarded the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics
- In Dec. 1932, Einstein traveled to the U.S. and renounced his German citizenship
 - applied for permanent residency in the United States
 - became an American citizen in 1940
- Einstein's scientific papers were among those destroyed in public book burnings on May 10, 1933





Einstein in Berlin, 1924

Einstein

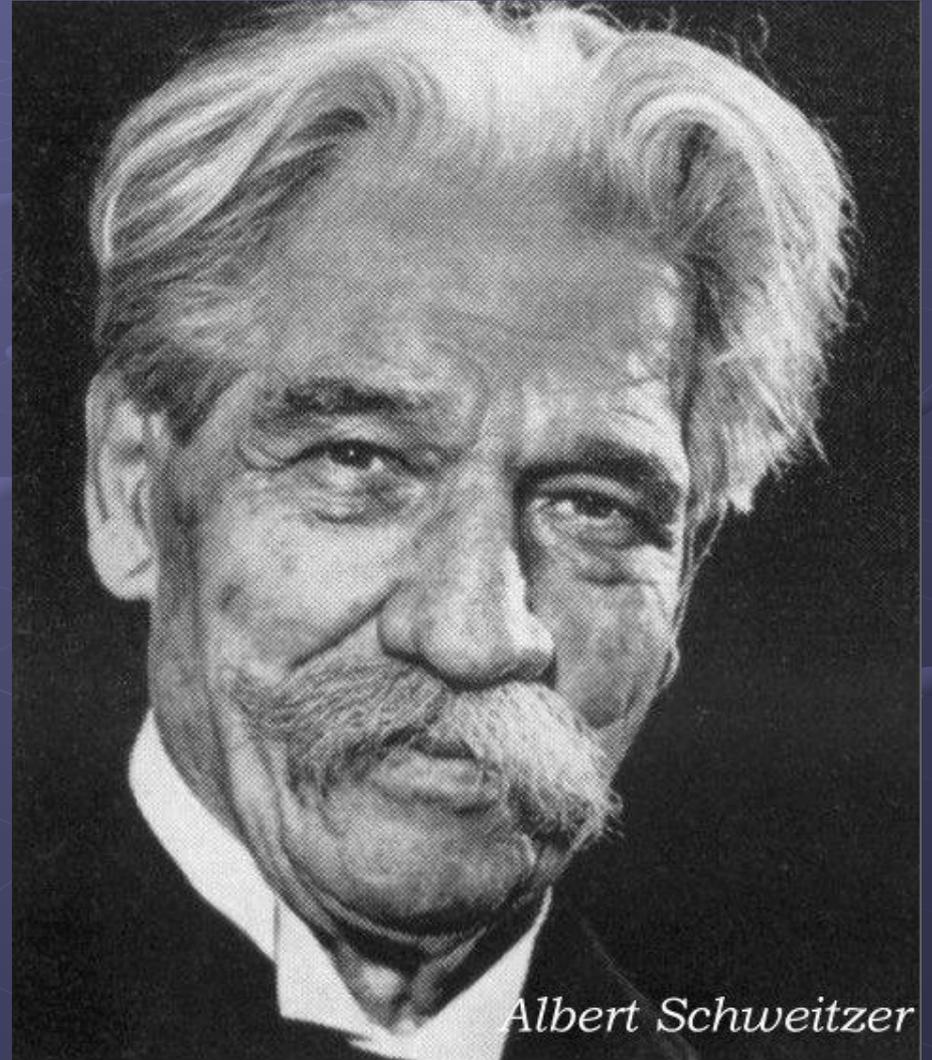
- In 1939, Einstein wrote a letter to U.S. President FDR warning that the Third Reich might be developing nuclear weapons based on his own research
 - Roosevelt investigated the matter and took the first steps toward the Manhattan Project
 - Einstein later expressed regret about the letter
- Lifelong Zionist
 - When Israeli first President Chaim Weizmann died in 1952, Einstein was asked to be Israel's second president, but he declined
- Was against nuclear testing and nuclear weapons, as well as racism



An Israeli pound note from 1968

Albert Schweitzer

- 1875-1965
- German physician and philosopher
 - Western civilization was in decay because of gradually abandoning its ethical foundations
 - he worked against nuclear tests and nuclear weapons with Einstein and Bertrand Russell in the 1950s
- received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize



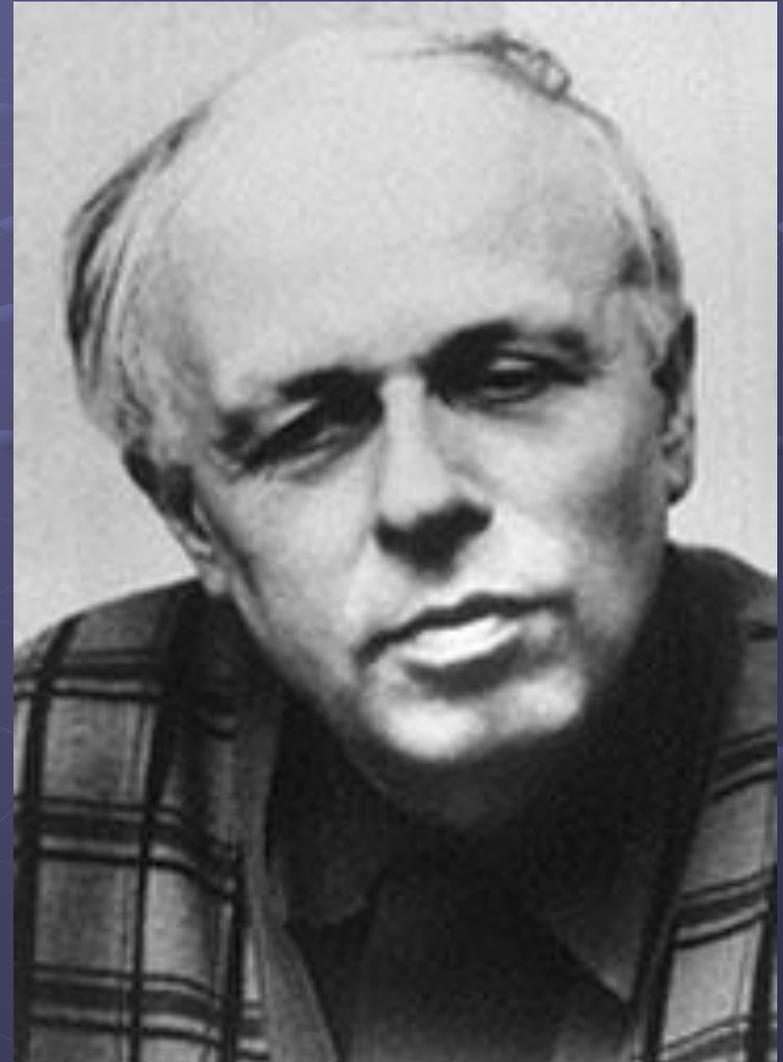
Albert Schweitzer

Schweitzer

- work as a medical missionary in Gabon, Africa
 - a small recompense for the historic guilt of European colonizers: "Who can describe the injustice and cruelties that in the course of centuries they have suffered at the hands of Europeans? . . . If a record could be compiled of all that has happened between the white and the colored races, it would make a book containing numbers of pages which the reader would have to turn over unread because their contents would be too horrible."
 - Schweitzer was one of colonialism's harshest critics

Andrei Sakharov

- 1921-1989
- Soviet nuclear physicist
 - “father of the H-bomb”
- Also a dissident and human rights activist
- Persecuted by Leonid Brezhnev, but elected to the Congress of People’s Deputies in 1989 under Gorbachev’s *perestroika*
- Won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975

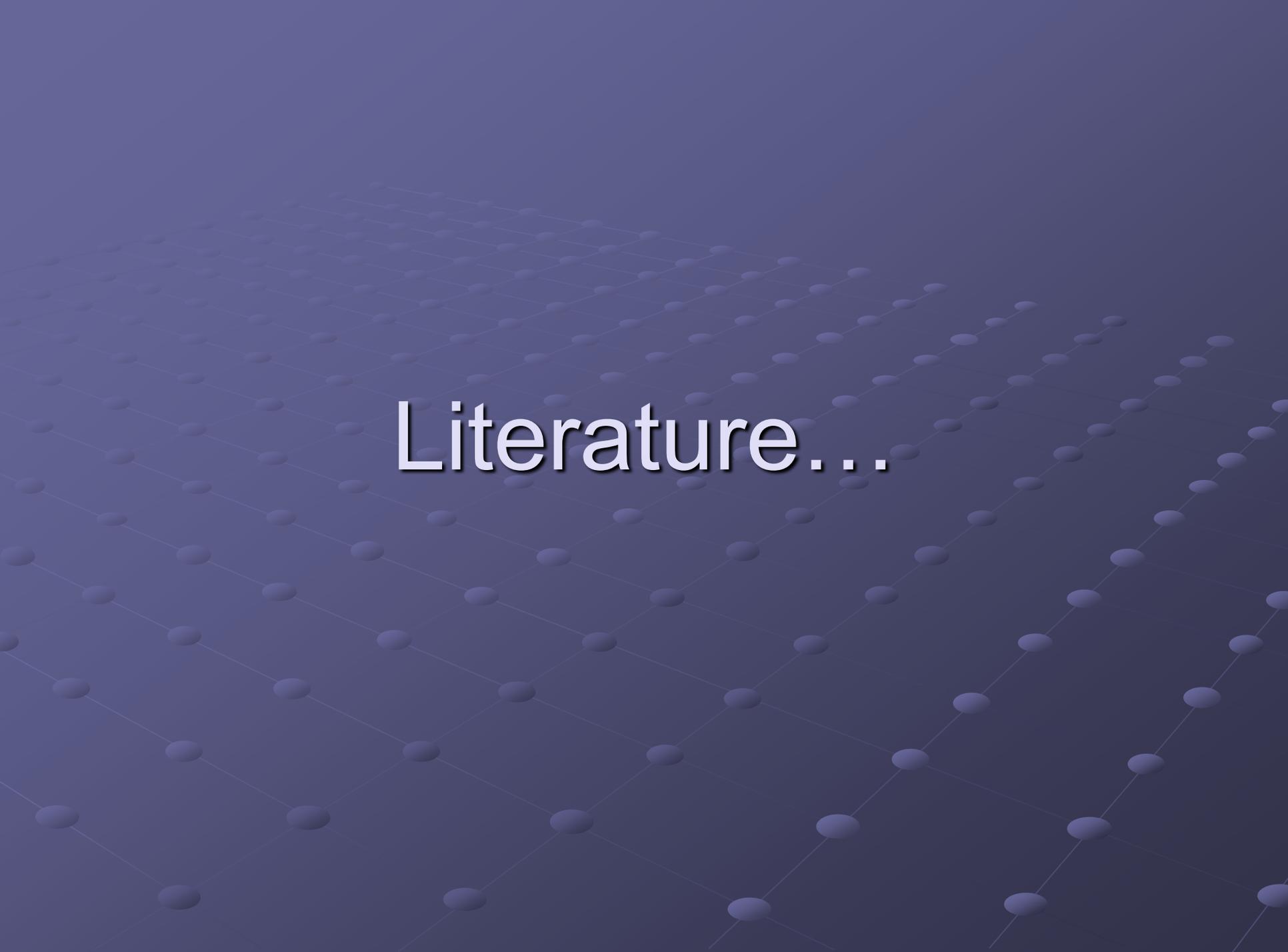


Sakharov

- In 1948 he participated in the Soviet atomic bomb project
 - The first Soviet atomic device was tested in August 1949
- In 1950, Sakharov created the Soviet hydrogen bomb (H-bomb)
 - The first Soviet fusion device was tested in August 1953
- From the late-1950s, Sakharov had become concerned about the moral and political implications of his work
 - was against nuclear proliferation

Sakharov

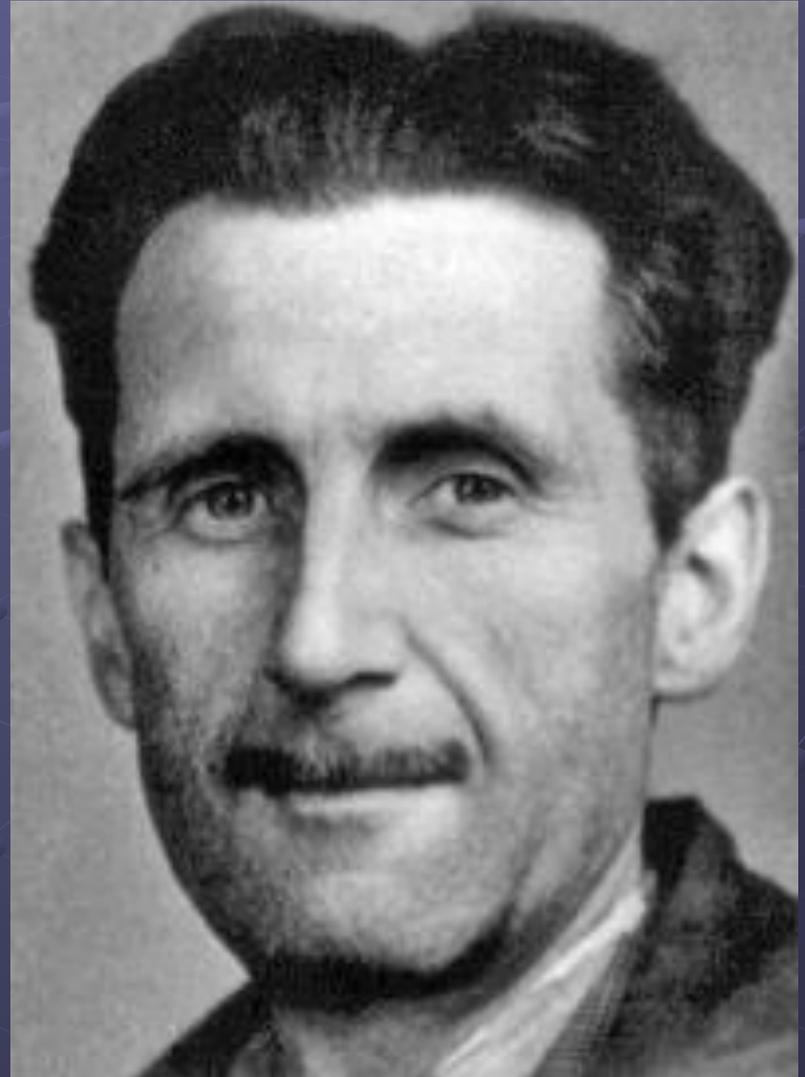
- Publicly opposed the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan
 - As a result, in 1980 he was seized by the KGB on a Moscow street and internally exiled to Siberia
 - Released by Gorbachev in Dec. 1986 and allowed to return to Moscow
- Spokesman for the liberal intelligentsia
- Member of a gov't commission to draft a new Soviet constitution



Literature...

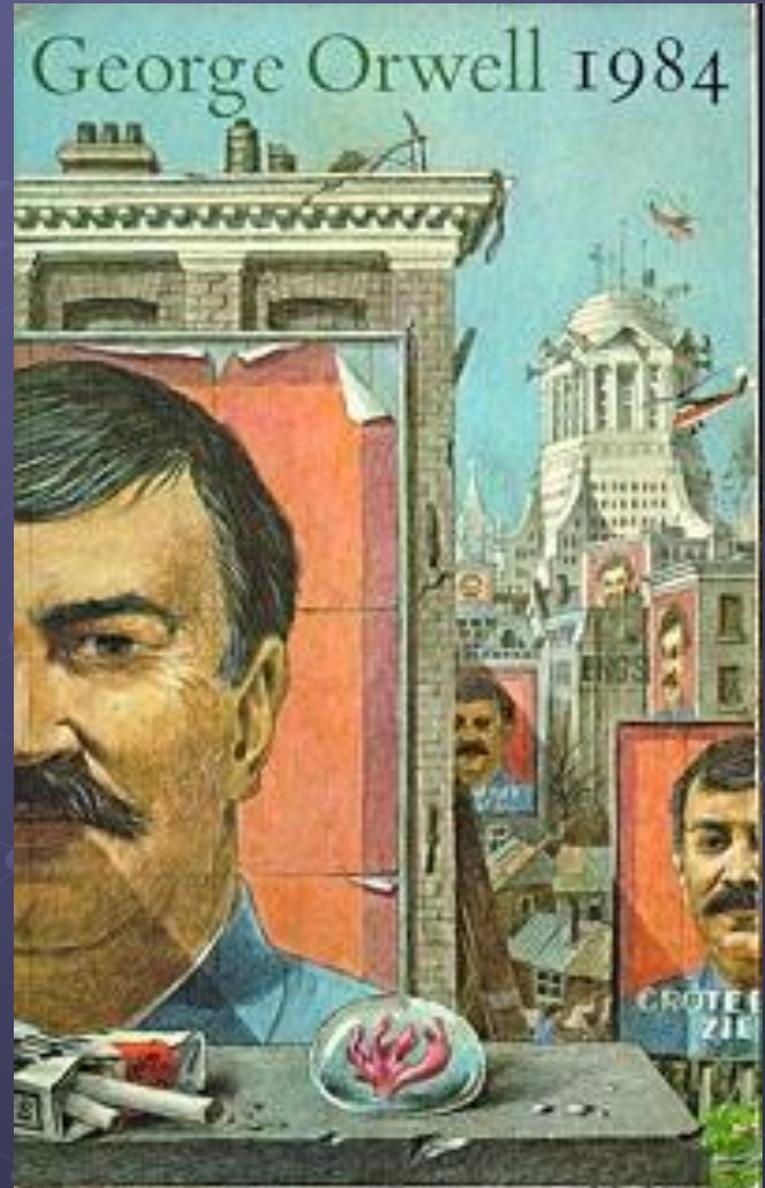
George Orwell

- Pen name of Eric Blair
- 1903-1950
- British author born in India
- joined the Indian Imperial Police serving in Burma
 - He came to hate imperialism, and when he returned to England on leave in 1927, he decided to resign and become a writer
- In 1936, Orwell traveled to Spain to fight for the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War against Franco's Fascist uprising
 - believed that Franco could be defeated only if the working class in the Republic overthrew capitalism
 - *Homage to Catalonia* (1938)



Orwell

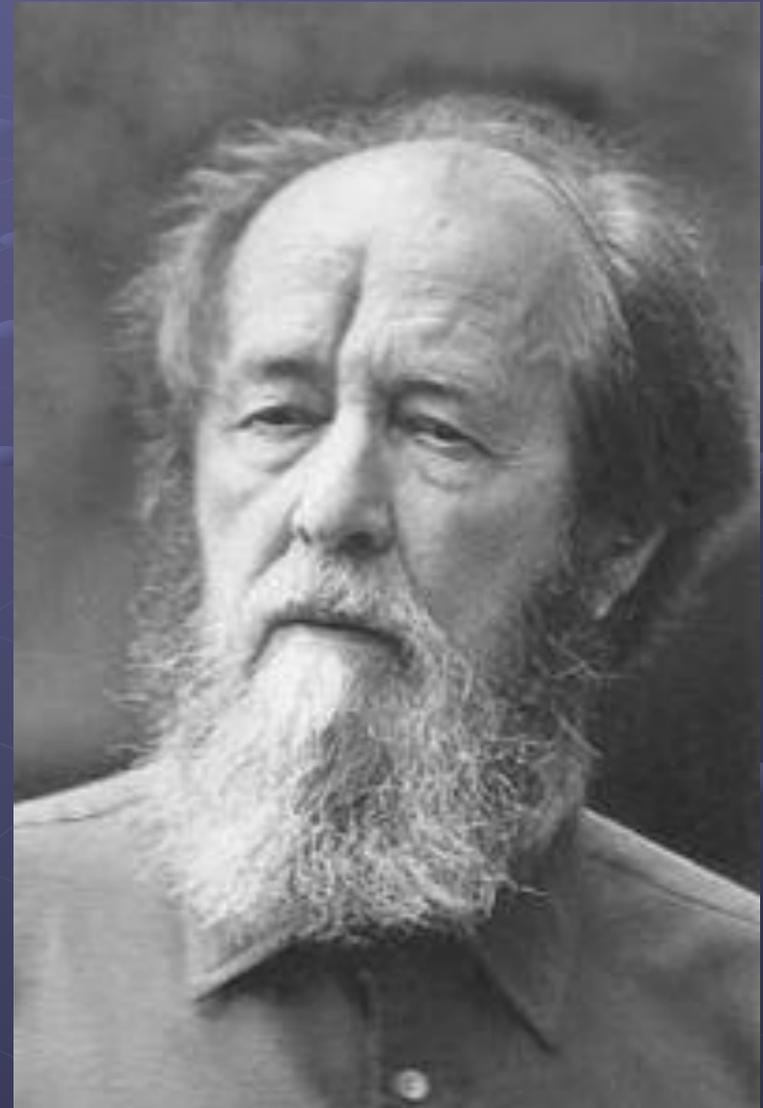
- *Animal Farm* (1945)
 - Anti-Stalinist allegory, portraying the Russian Revolution and Stalin's ascent to power
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)
 - Anti-Stalinist story portraying life under Stalin's totalitarianism
 - displays his perception of a dystopia
 - technological advances are used to the benefit of the party and to exploit greater control over the masses, not to improve quality of life as intended



● "Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, against totalitarianism and for democratic socialism"

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

- 1918-2008
- Russian author
- awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1970
- exiled from the Soviet Union in 1974 and stripped of Soviet citizenship
 - the KGB had found the manuscript for the first part of *The Gulag Archipelago*
- Moved to moved to Cavendish, Vermont in 1976, where he lived until he returned to Russia in 1994
 - In 1990, his Soviet citizenship was restored



Solzhenitsyn

- In February 1945, while serving in East Prussia during WWII, he was arrested for criticizing Stalin in a letter to a friend
 - sentenced to an eight-year term in a labor camp
 - When he was released in 1953 he was a committed dissident
 - His experiences during his imprisonment at a labor camp in Kazakhstan formed the basis for the book *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1963)
 - an account of a prisoner trying to survive a day in a Gulag prison
 - brought the Soviet system of prison labor to the attention of the West
 - “The Soviet Union was destroyed by information, only information. And this wave started from Solzhenitsyn's *One Day*.” -writer and journalist Vitaly Korotich
- His work revealed the horrors of Stalin's regime and the Soviet system



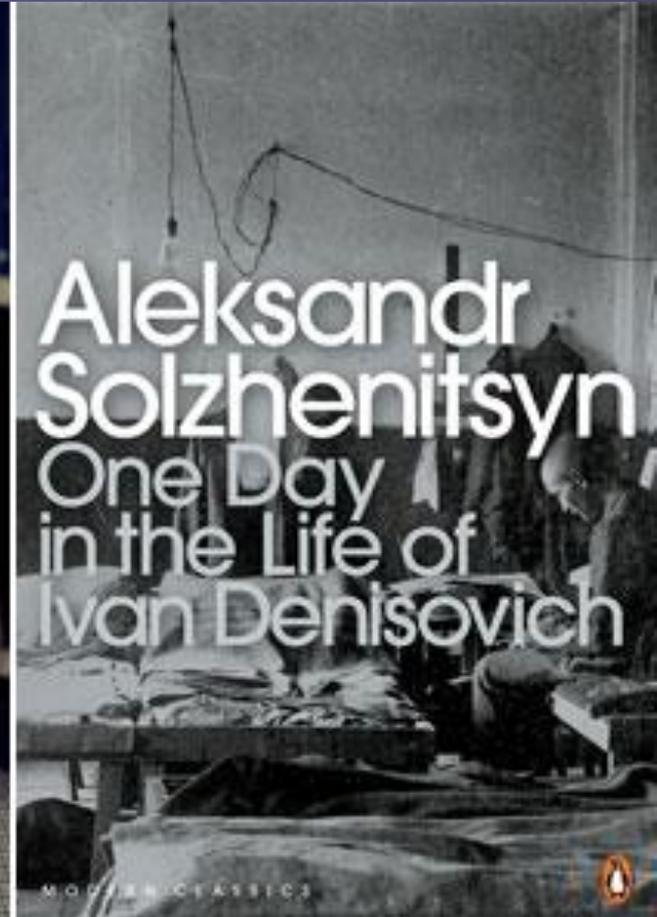
a Penguin Book

3/-

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

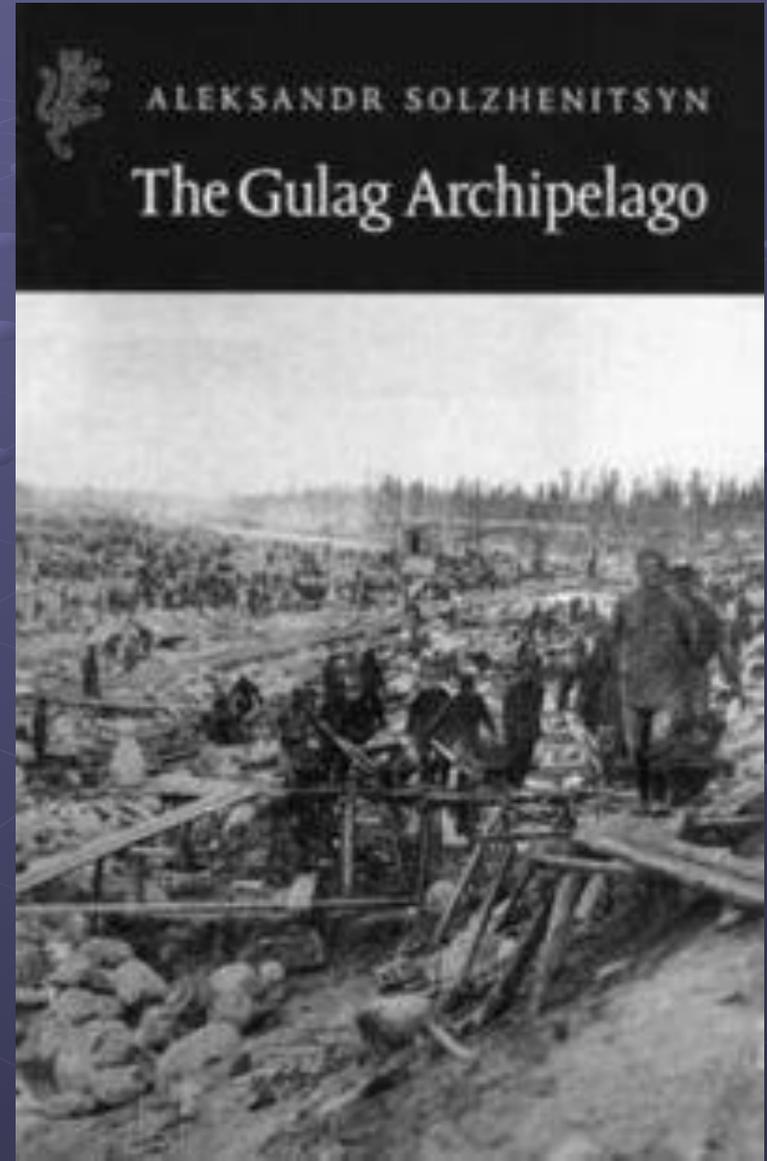
Alexander Solzhenitsyn

THE MASTERPIECE ON
LIFE IN A STALINIST LABOUR
CAMP WHICH SHOOK RUSSIA
AND SHOCKED THE WORLD



Solzhenitsyn

- Also led to *The Gulag Archipelago* (1973)
 - based upon Solzhenitsyn's own experience as well as the testimony of over 200 former prisoners
 - a detailed account of the systematic Soviet abuses from 1918 to 1956 in the vast network of its prison and labor camps
 - Soviet press called him a traitor, and in 1974, Soviet authorities stripped him of his citizenship and expelled him from the country



● **“He was one of the first to talk about the inhumane Stalinist regime and about the people who experienced it.”**

- Mikhail Gorbachev