

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Quotes

Men, People, War, Lying, Art, Spiritual, Country, Heart, Thinking, World, Peace, Russia, Memories, Attitude, Evil, Party, Wisdom, Believe, Giving, Government

The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie.
"One word of truth outweighs the world."

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Own only what you can always carry with you: know languages, know countries, know people. Let your memory be your travel bag.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Violence can only be concealed by a lie, and the lie can only be maintained by violence.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

That which is called humanism, but what would be more correctly called irreligious anthropocentrism, cannot yield answers to the most essential questions of our life

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Hastiness and superficiality are the psychic diseases of the 20th century, and more than anywhere else this disease is reflected in the press.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

If we look far into the future, one can see a time in the 21st century when both Europe and the USA will be in dire need of Russia as an ally.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A man is happy so long as he chooses to be happy and nothing can stop him.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

I can say without affectation that I belong to the Russian convict world no less than I do to Russian literature. I got my education there, and it will last forever.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

In our country the lie has become not just a moral category but a pillar of the State.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

It is the artist who realizes that there is a supreme force above him and works gladly away as a small apprentice under God's heaven.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

If I were called upon to identify briefly the principal trait of the entire 20th century... I would be unable to find anything more precise and pithy than to repeat once again: Men have forgotten God.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

It's not the sea that drowns you-it's the puddle.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

To do evil a human being must first of all believe that what he's doing is good.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Evil people always support each other; that is their chief strength.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A state of war only serves as an excuse for domestic tyranny.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Everything you add to the truth subtracts from the truth.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The task of the artist is to sense more keenly than others the harmony of the world, the beauty and the outrage of what man has done to it, and poignantly to let people know.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Here again we witness the single outcome of a worldwide process, with East and West yielding the same results, and once again for the same reason: Men have forgotten God.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Communism will never be halted by negotiations or through the machinations of detente. It can only be halted by force from without or by disintegration from within.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

... people don't know what they are striving for. They waste themselves in senseless thrashing around for the sake of a handful of goods and die without realizing their spiritual wealth.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The battleline between good and evil runs through the heart of every man.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The timid civilized world has found nothing with which to oppose the onslaught of a sudden revival of barefaced barbarity, other than concessions and smiles.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Not everything has a name. Some things lead us into a realm beyond wordsâ€¦By means of art were are sometimes sent - dimly, briefly - revelations unattainable by reason.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The meaning of earthly existence lies not, as we have grown used to thinking, in prospering, but in the development of the soul...

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The price of cowardice will only be evil. We shall reap courage and victory only when we dare to make sacrifices.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Let your memory be your travel bag.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

During my time in the camps, I had got to know the enemies of the human race quite well: they respect the big fist and nothing else; the harder you slug them, the safer you will be.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

You only have power over people so long as you don't take everything away from them. But when you've robbed a man of everything, he's no

longer in your power - he's free again.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity. Those who clearly recognize the voice of their own conscience usually recognize also the voice of justice.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The solemn pledge to abstain from telling the truth was called socialist realism.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The belly is an ungrateful wretch, it never remembers past favors, it always wants more tomorrow.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Morality is always higher than law and we cannot forget this ever.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Only those who decline to scramble up the career ladder are interesting as human beings. Nothing is more boring than a man with a career.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The less you speak, the more you will hear.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

It is time in the West to defend not so much human rights as human obligations.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A great disaster had befallen Russia: Men have forgotten God; that's

why all this has happened.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

For us in Russia, communism is a dead dog, while, for many people in the West, it is still a living lion.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

When we feel that we are not sufficiently respected, we should ask ourselves whether we are living as we should.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

We do not err because truth is difficult to see. It is visible at a glance. We err because this is more comfortable.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Any man who has once acclaimed violence as his method must inexorably choose falsehood as his principle.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Violence does not and cannot flourish by itself; it is inevitably intertwined with lying.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A drop in the ocean has no fear of a hurricane.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

We have to condemn the very idea that some people have the right to repress others.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

We are so attached to the earth, and yet we are incapable of holding onto it.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Should one point out that from ancient times decline in courage has been considered the beginning of the end?

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The next war... may well bury Western civilization forever.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Man has set for himself the goal of conquering the world but in the processes loses his soul.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Just as King Midas turned everything to gold, Stalin turned everything to mediocrity.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The salvation of mankind lies only in making everything the concern of all.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

How can you expect a man who's warm to understand one who's cold?

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Mistakes are a great educator when one is honest enough to admit them and willing to learn from them

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Even the most rational approach to ethics is defenseless if there isn't the will to do what is right.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

I would rather have the United States as the world's policeman than the Soviet Union as the world's jailer.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Sometimes I feel quite distinctly that what is inside me is not all of me. There is something else, sublime, quite indestructible, some tiny fragment of the Universal spirit. Don't you feel that?

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

He who knows how to be content will be content with little.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

People who are at ease with their consciences always look happy.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Your friend will argue with you.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

If we don't know our own history, then we simply will have to endure all of the same mistakes, all of the same sacrifices, all of the same absurdities over again - times ten.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Anything too far out of tune with our attitude is lost, either in the ears themselves or somewhere beyond, but it is lost.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Every man always has handy a dozen glib little reasons why he is right not to sacrifice himself.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

All classifications in this world lack sharp boundaries, and all transitions are gradual.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Lord, give me the strength to accomplish what You've given me to do and the faith to trust You that what I haven't been able to accomplish You've already assigned to someone else.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Literature transmits incontrovertible condensed experience... from generation to generation. In this way literature becomes the living memory of a nation.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Any man who has once proclaimed violence as his method is inevitably forced to take the lie as his principle.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

It is in the nature of the human being to seek a justification for his actions.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

One world, one mankind cannot exist in the face of six, four or even two scales of values: We shall be torn apart by this disparity of rhythm, this disparity of vibrations.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

If one is forever cautious, can one remain a human being?

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

I am deeply convinced that God is present both in the lives of every person and also in the lives of entire nations.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

It is within the power of writers and artists to do much more: to defeat the lie!

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Our envy of others devours us most of all.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Someone that you have deprived of everything is no longer in your power. He is once again entirely free.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Blow the dust off the clock. Your watches are behind the times. Throw open the heavy curtains which are so dear to you - you do not even suspect that the day has already dawned outside.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either - but right through every human heart...

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A great writer is, so to speak, a secret government in his country

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

We always pay dearly for chasing after what is cheap.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Only an extraordinary person can turn opportunity into reality.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Everyone is guilty of something or has something to conceal. All one has to do is look hard enough to find what it is.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

When things are too clear, they are no longer interesting.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The name of 'reform' simply covers what is latently a process of the theft of the national heritage.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

You know the words from the Bible: 'Build not on sand, but on rock....'
Tyrant leaders respect only firmness...and laugh at persons who give in to them.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

There can be no acceptable future without an honest analysis of the past.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The Communists have for decades loudly proclaimed their goal of destroying the bourgeois world, while the West merely smiled at what seemed to be an extravagant joke.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Education doesn't make you smarter.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Some are bound to die young. By dying young a person stays young in people's memory. If he burns brightly before he dies, his brightness shines for all time.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

... once you get up steam, you are carried helplessly along.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

You should rejoice that you're in prison. Here you have time to think about your soul.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A fish does not campaign against fisheries-it only tries to slip through

the mesh.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A storm breaks trees. It only bends grass.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

When you're cold, don't expect sympathy from someone who's warm.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A decline in courage may be the most striking feature that an outside observer notices in the West today.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

If a person can build a fence around himself, he is bound to do it.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Talent is always conscious of its own abundance, and does not object to sharing.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

I insist on believing that beauty elevates human beings.

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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