



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Kennan Institute to Launch Solzhenitsyn Initiative**

WASHINGTON — The Woodrow Wilson Center’s Kennan Institute has launched the Solzhenitsyn Initiative to translate major works by Nobel Laureate Alexandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2007) for the first time into English.

Solzhenitsyn, best known in the West as the author of *The Gulag Archipelago* and *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, wrote a number of other books, including a history of the Russian Revolution and his autobiography of his years in exile in the United States, that have been translated into other languages, but not into English.

The first volume to be translated will be *The Little Grain*, Solzhenitsyn’s autobiography during his years living in the United States. Work has also begun on translating the remaining volumes of *The Red Wheel*, Solzhenitsyn’s partially-translated history of Russia during World War I and leading into the Bolshevik Revolution.

The Kennan Institute will work with the Solzhenitsyn literary estate and family to produce these important translations and organize academic and other promotional events to coincide with their publication.

The Solzhenitsyn Initiative was first announced at the May 13 2014 Davis Dinner marking the Kennan Institute’s 40th anniversary by **Drew Guff**, managing director of Siguler Guff and founding donor of the Solzhenitsyn Initiative. “If we as Americans are to make wise policy concerning Russia, we need to do more than grapple with the political or security issues of the day,” said Guff. “We need a fundamental understanding of Russia’s history and its culture...To that end, these translations will open access of some of Solzhenitsyn’s most important work to the English-speaking world for the first time; and I can think of no better institution than the Kennan Institute to lead the way.”

“The Kennan Institute is proud to have the support and confidence of the Solzhenitsyn family and our generous donors, in particular Drew Guff, who is the driving force behind bringing the Solzhenitsyn Initiative to the Kennan Institute,” said Kennan Institute director **Matthew Rojansky**. “With these important works available in English for the first time, readers will gain important new insights into Russian culture and history through the eyes of one of Russia’s greatest writers.”

For additional information on the Solzhenitsyn Initiative, please contact Mr. Joseph Dresen on the Kennan Institute staff at ([joseph.dresen@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:joseph.dresen@wilsoncenter.org)).

**Notes to editors:**

1. [The Wilson Center](#) provides a strictly nonpartisan space for the worlds of policymaking and scholarship to interact. By conducting relevant and timely research and promoting dialogue from all perspectives, it works to address the critical current and emerging challenges confronting the United States and the world.
2. [The Kennan Institute](#) was co-founded in 1974 at the Wilson Center by Ambassador George F. Kennan, whose writings served as the basis for the containment policy that shaped American foreign policy for four decades. Recognized as the nation's pre-eminent thinker on Russia at the time, Ambassador Kennan chose to name the institution after a distant relative, a 19<sup>th</sup> century explorer and writer on Siberia and Imperial Russia. That choice was intended to convey the importance Kennan placed on a broad and deep understanding of Russia as well as on sustaining patient engagement with this complex but vitally important part of the world.