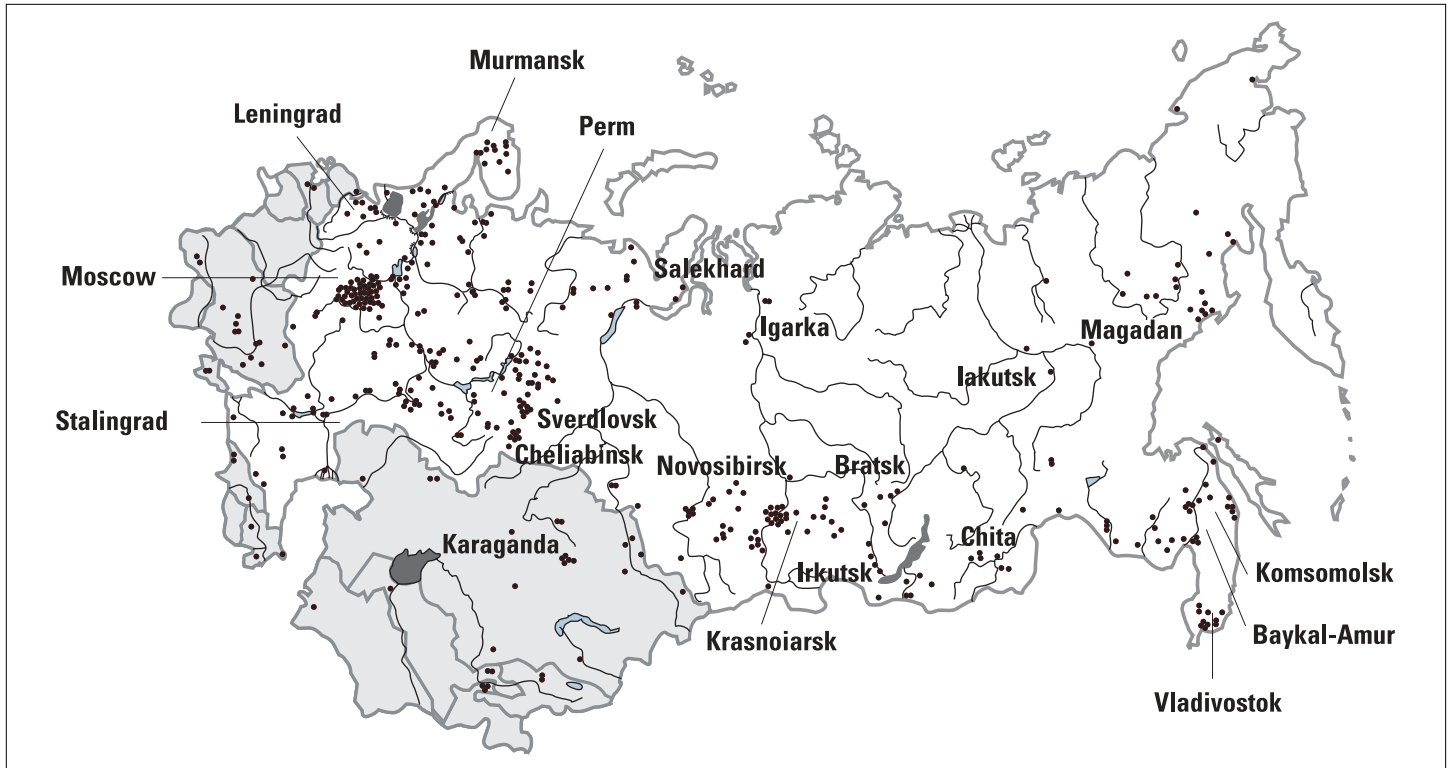


GULAG: SOVIET PRISON CAMPS AND THEIR LEGACY



GULAG locations across Soviet Union

Most countries have prison systems where those convicted of crimes serve out their sentences. Citizens of these countries believe that people who commit crimes should be punished by being separated from the rest of society and deprived of some of their freedoms.

However, the GULAG—the prison camp system that arose in the Soviet Union after 1929—served primarily as a way to gain control over the entire population, rather than punish criminal acts. The incarceration of millions of innocent people in the GULAG system is correctly seen as one of the worst and most shocking episodes of the twentieth century.

DEFINITION OF GULAG:

State Camp Administration

NUMBERS DEBATE

A 1990 report by the Moscow News stated that between 1931 and 1953, 3,778,234 people were arrested for counter-revolutionary and state crimes, of which 786,098 were shot.* Recent scholarship suggests that between 1929 and 1953, 18 million people passed through camps and 6 million more were exiled.

*Source: *Moskovskie Novosti (Moscow News)*, March 4, 1990.