**A World Split Apart—Alexander Solzhenitsyn**

1. He begins by assuming that the West is weak? What do you think that he is referring to?
   1. Disintegrating families, out of control spending and debt, welfare mentality, rampant greed and materialism, sexual promiscuity, violent crimes, ludicrous litigation, opposition to religion, disrespect for older people, etc.
2. This has been the destination of the West all along—what set it on this course?
   1. Humanism, as it came out of the Renaissance and Enlightenment
      1. No evil nature
      2. Happiness as the highest good
3. As Westeners lost a sense of transcendence (life is about my nerves at the moment instead of about something greater than my specific emotions at this second), morality faded in importance
4. Spiritual life is being trampled in the East and in the West, leading to a split world—by what in each?
5. Solz. predicts the decline of Western civilization if it does not reevaluate and change its basic values—look at the questions he raises in the second to last paragraph.
6. Entering a New Age—what will it be like?