

Khrushchev - Key Terms and Domestic Discussion Topics

March 5, 1953 - death of Stalin

Beria et al. surround Moscow with troops

March 27 - broad amnesty of political prisoners

April 1 - cuts in retail prices

April 3 - release of the doctors from the doctors' plot

July Party plenum on economic reconstruction

August - Malenkov announces a new schedule of deliveries
clothing production to be increased by 240%

meat by 240%

dairy by 180%

emphasis on consumer goods

collective leadership (April 1953)

birth of Kremlinology in the West - who will come out first

Lavrentii Beria, head of the KGB - arrested in June 1953;
executed in December (the last execution)

Georgii Malenkov - tries to be head of state and party; forced out in February 1955

Vyacheslav Molotov - foreign minister

Virgin Lands (from 1954)

Kazakh resistance; semi-arid lands; influx of Russians

rationale: more grain for more livestock

mobilization of 200,000 young people from the Komsomol

problems: no crop rotation or land lying fallow;

Excessive use of fertilizers; exhaustion and erosion

shift in resources (incl. tractors) from other areas

Khrushchev's rise to power - Sept. 1953, he becomes First Secretary of the Party

in 1954 he expands the Politburo and replaces over half of the first party secretaries; now 11/15 are party secretaries like himself

Changes for collective farmers:

Higher procurement prices

reduced taxes and restrictions on private plots

May 1955 - Establishment of the Warsaw Pact

Twentieth Party Congress (1956) - Secret Speech
Gorbachev and others consider themselves "children of the
20th Party Congress"

release of political prisoners (zeki)
1953-1956: 4,000-6,000 being released per year
1956-1958: 7-8 million released

Oct.-Nov. 1956 - Hungarian revolution

1957 - Khrushchev announces that within four years the USSR
would overtake the U.S. in the production of meat, milk and
butter

abolition of the Machine Tractor Stations

June 1957 alliance against Khrushchev; Anti-Party grouping

Oct. 1957 - Sputnik

1958 - Khrushchev takes over as Prime Minister

Dec. 1958 - new criminal court
specific violations of specific articles; not blanket
charges

emphasis on "socialist legality"

comrades courts (1959)

emphasis on preventive and educational work

shaming drunkards, etc.

Law on Parasites: non-labor income

Execution of Rokotov and Faibishenko

For gold and currency speculation

continued primacy of the political over the legal

1959 - Visit to the U.S.

Twenty-Second Party Congress (1961)

publication of the denunciations of Stalin

Stalin's body is removed from the mausoleum

return to "Leninist norms"

split the Party into two: one part in charge of agriculture,
the other in charge of industry

problems of overlap between the two (e.g. industrial
crops such as cotton)

Novocherkassk uprising (June 1962) - food riots; 70 people
killed

agonizing decision to buy foreign grain abroad

Cuban Missile Crisis (Oct. 1962)

Publication of Solzhenitsyn's One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich (Nov. 1962). This is part of the literary Thaw

Reorganization of party and state

Reductions in military spending and dismissals of officers

October 14, 1964 - Suslov (soon to be Brezhnev's chief ideologue) denounces Khrushchev

for creating a new cult of personality

for attempting to be a specialist in everything

for attempting too many administrative reorganizations

for imprudent foreign affairs

kukuruznik - corn-eater

hare-brained schemes

To think about: why did Khrushchev fall?

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