

Khrushchev - Key Events

March 5, 1953 - death of Stalin

1953 - Nikita Khrushchev consolidates his position as head of the party; becomes known as the "First" (rather than Gensek)

April 4, 1953 - closing of the "doctor's plot" and declaration that it was based on false testimony

June 26, 1953 - Presidium meeting removes Beria as head of the KGB

August 12, 1953 - testing of the USSR's first hydrogen bomb

1953-1955 -- Khrushchev has skirmishes with Malenkov (head of state) over the issue of agriculture

1955 - Malenkov resigns, acknowledges his errors in the area of agricultural policy and Bulganin, Khrushchev's protege, takes over as head of state

Molotov also acknowledges that he had made elementary errors in foreign policy

1956 - 20th Party Congress: Khrushchev denounces Stalin's "cult of personality"

1956 - Polish and Hungarian revolts against Moscow

July-Nov. 1956 - Suez crisis: Khrushchev proposes that the U.S. and U.S.S.R. send a joint peace-keeping delegation to the Middle East; this is rebuffed by Eisenhower

June 1957 - Malenkov, Molotov, Voroshilov and Kaganovich attempt to wrest power from Khrushchev; when their attempt fails, they are dubbed the "antiparty group" and forced into retirement

August 1957 - successful test of the first intercontinental ballistic missile (R-7)

Oct. 4, 1957 - launch of Sputnik

Nov. 1958 - Khrushchev proposes the creation of two Germanies (GDR or East Germany, and FRG or West Germany) and a "free city of West Berlin"

Jan. 1959 - Fidel Castro comes to power in Cuba

Sept. 1959 - Khrushchev visits the United States

Oct. 1959 - Khrushchev visits Beijing

March 17, 1960 - Eisenhower authorizes the CIA to form an anti-Castro coalition among the Cuban emigres

May 1, 1960 - Francis Gary Power's U-2 plane is shot down over the USSR (U-2's had been flying over the USSR since 1956)
Khrushchev tests Eisenhower at the Paris summit

Sept.-Oct. 1960 - Khrushchev visits the United Nations in conjunction with the crisis in the Congo; his proposals to restructure the U.N. Secretariat and move the U.N. to Switzerland or Austria are rejected; he bangs his shoe in frustration

Jan. 1961 - John F. Kennedy takes office as president of the US

April 12, 1961 - first manned space flight by Yuri Gagarin

April 17, 1961 - Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba

May 12, 1961 - Khrushchev agrees to a summit meeting with Kennedy in Vienna

June 3-4, 1961- Vienna summit between Khrushchev and Kennedy
Khrushchev threatens a separate peace treaty with the GDR

August 13, 1961 - erection of a barbed wire fence around West Berlin

late August 1961 - the USSR resumes atmospheric nuclear tests

Oct. 17, 1961 - 22nd Party Congress
Gromyko makes a conciliatory speech toward the U.S., arguing that peace between the "two giants," the US and the USSR, would mean world peace
Stalin's body is now removed from Red Square

Oct. 30, 1961 - USSR drops 50-megaton nuclear bomb over Novaya Zemlya

May 31, 1962 - Khrushchev announces the doubling of basic food prices

June 1-3, 1962 - riots break out in Novocherkassk

Oct. 1962 - Cuban missile crisis

Oct. 1964 - Khrushchev is forced to retire; he is denounced as "a hare-brained schemer" and "kukuruznik" [corn-eater]

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