

## The Soviet Union 1950–1991

### I. Stalinism—Central Problem of Soviet History

#### II. The Cult of Personality, 1945–1953

##### A. Domestic Policy

1. Devastation
  - a. Human Losses
  - b. Equipment and Property Losses
2. Arrests, Deportations, and the Gulag
  - a. Nationalities
  - b. Intelligentsia, Artists, and Dissidents (e.g., Eisenstein, Solzhenitsyn)
  - c. Doctors' Plot
3. Schemes, Policies, and Pronouncements
  - a. Trofim Lysenko on Biology (anti-genetics)
  - b. "Marxism in Linguistics"
  - c. Andrei Zhdanov on the Arts
  - d. Cybernation—a bourgeois science

##### B. Beginning of the Cold War

##### C. Death of Stalin, March 5, 1953

#### III. De-Stalinization, 1953–1964

##### A. Four Phases of De-Stalinization

1. Moderate Phase (March 1953 to January 1956)
2. Dethronement Phase (February 1956 to January 1957)
3. Reappraisal Phase (January 1957 to October 1961)
4. Liquidation of His Memory Phase (October 1961 to October 1964)

##### B. Khrushchev's Rise to Power and Downfall

1. Succession Maneuvers, 1953
  - March: Malenkov as premier and first party secretary
  - March 14: Malenkov resigns as first party secretary
  - April: *Pravda* and Beria announce "Doctors' Plot" a hoax
  - June: Beria arrested and executed as British agent
  - Malenkov announces emphasis on consumer goods (*Izvestiia*)
  - September: Khrushchev become first party secretary
  - Pravda* denounces consumer goods policy as "rightist deviation"
2. Succession Maneuvers, 1954
  - February 8: Malenkov resigns as premier
    - a. cites "inexperience"//takes blame for agriculture failures
    - b. N. A. Bulganin becomes premier
3. Succession Maneuvers, 1956
  - June: Molotov resigns as foreign minister

4. Succession Maneuvers, 1957
  - June: Khrushchev and Bulganin in Finland
    - a. rivals secure majority in Presidium of CC
    - b. Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich, and Dmitrii Shepilov (“antiparty group”)
    - c. Khrushchev insisted CC vote on his removal
    - d. Zhukov flew in Khrushchev’s supporters
5. Succession Maneuvers, 1958
  - March: Bulganin resigns//Khrushchev become premier
6. Succession Maneuvers, 1964
  - October 15: Khrushchev vacationing in Sochi

### C. Foreign Policy

### D. Domestic Policy

1. Emphasis on heavy industry
  - a. sixth five-year plan scrapped for seven-year plan
  - b. seven-year plan scrapped
2. Agricultural Successes and Failures
  - September 1953: Khrushchev speech about agriculture
  - February 1954: “Virgin Lands” project announced
  - Bumper harvest, 1956; followed by failure of harvest, 1959–1961
  - Purchase of grain, 1963
3. Technological Development
  - a. Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM)
  - b. Earth-orbiting satellites (Sputnik) – S. P. Korolev

## IV. Brezhnev: Detente and the Period of Stagnation (1964–1985)

### A. Gerontocracy

### B. Foreign Policy

### C. Domestic Policy

1. Initial reforms failed
2. Development of military
3. Agricultural comparisons
4. Ethnic unrest

## V. The Gender Gap

### A. 1910s–1930s

### B. World War II

### C. Post-World War II

## VI. Glasnost, Perestroika, and Mikhail Gorbachev, 1985–1991

### A. Searching for a Formula, 1985–1987

### B. Apogee of Reform, 1987–1989