The Cold War

The USSR vs. the US
1955

• West Germany is now included in NATO
  – The Soviets establish the Warsaw Pact in response to this [Sakwa, 344]
1956

- Khrushchev’s report to the 20th party congress [Sakwa, 344-45]:
  - Who will win out over whom?
  - “Either peaceful coexistence or the most destructive war in history. There is no third way...” [Sakwa, 344]

- Polish and Hungarian uprisings
  - Soviet troops go into Hungary

- Suez Crisis
Sputnik, 1957
1958

• Khrushchev takes over the post of Prime Minister from Bulganin. He now holds two positions (he is also first secretary of the Party) as Stalin did.

• Khrushchev begins sabre rattling about Berlin at the same time that he is angling for an invitation to visit the U.S.
1959

• Kitchen debate between Khrushchev and Nixon (July)

• Trip to the U.S. (Sept. 1959)
  – Corn and housing
  – Khrushchev wanted to see for himself why "agriculture, America's biggest success, [was] communism's biggest failure."
Khrushchev-Nixon Kitchen Debate

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1960

• Khrushchev announces the reduction of Soviet military forces by 1.2 million men in three years.
  – Growing dissatisfaction of top military leaders
The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962

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SOVIET SHIP POLTAVA ENROUTE TO CUBA

15 SEPTEMBER 1962

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The Cuban Missile Crisis