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?