

How much change

Authority

De-Stalinisation
Speech to Duma
1956

Failure to reform

Khrushchev 1953-64

Khrushchev spoke in condemnation
Of Stalin's violation
Of Lenin's revolutionary laws:
How the shooting dead of Eike
Was proof that Stalin's psyche
Was riddled with most odious flaws.
But though Khrushchev
took exception
To bureaucrats' corruption,
He failed to make effective reform;
And all attempts to nurture
A growing liberal culture
Merely stimulated diehard scorn...

*Nikita Khrushchev
Had Stalin pushed off
The pedestal where he stood:
Said all that purging,
At Stalin's urging,
Had done more harm
than good,
The Politburo
Would thence make sure no
Psychopathic megalomaniac
in future could...*

Prosperity

Agricultural
development

In Kazakhstan & South Siberia,
Land was virgin but inferior
Which bad management
& planning made worse:
While maize replacing cotton,
So badly stored went rotten
And put food production into reverse.
Industry was veering
Towards lighter engineering,
Consumer goods & higher rewards;
But along with chemicals & plastic,
Were of Joe iconoclastic,
So with older party members,
crossed swords...

Light industry

Compare with Leninism; Stalinism; Brezhnev; Gorbachev.

...K. critical of Stalinism in a speech to
the duma in 1956; Stalin had ignored
even aborted Lenin's dictum on
personality,
...purges of the 30s condemned, so too
Eike's murder
... began to take on corruption within
party but found like others before &
after him it was too entrenched

...almost anticipated Gorbachev here,
but this too far at this stage.

...attempts to increase land for
cultivation hindered by its unsuitability,
ineffective preparation and inefficient
management
...storage of maize inadequate so crop
worthless.

...industry modernised with more
attractive consumer goods but with
varying success
...hardliners who regarded any moves
away from the Stalinist lines of
production were a criticism of him and
therefore themselves

Security...

Yugoslavia 1945 <

Hungary 1956

Poland 1957-8

Berlin Air Route 1948
<

Berlin Wall 1961

Cuban Crisis 1962

*Nikita Khrushchev
Had Stalin pushed off
The pedestal where he stood;
But though despising
Collectivising,
For having done no good,
Despite his urgin',
Lands that were virgin
Were growing less than he hoped
they would...*

Stalin had failed to pull down Tito,
Loved & lauded by his people,
With whom Khrushchev dealt
with favour & tact;
But Magyars were suppressed,
When tanks moved into Budapest;
And Poland forced to keep
the Warsaw pact.
He'd tried to block up
Berlin's drain
But couldn't stop the
freedom planes,
And stalemate was built into the Wall;
Then having sweetened Castro,
Sparked the Cuban missile fiasco,
When he had to order
Soviet withdrawal.

...relations with Tito in Yugoslavia
were cordial, in contrast to Stalin;

...crushed Budapest liberal
movement and prevented attempt
by Polish dissidents to withdraw
from Warsaw pact.
...little done to prevent stream of
disaffected citizens escaping to
West...until wall was built

...despite US losses like Bay of
Pigs & U2 incident, failed to gain
Cuban missile crisis advantage
when Kennedy removed US
missiles from Turkey

*Nikita Khrushchev
Had Stalin pushed off
The pedestal where he stood;
But took to purging
Freedom emerging
Where he believed he should;
Then failed to sign a
Treaty with China,
And so the Kremlin
Conspired to send him
An invitation:
"Stay on vacation
for good."*

References: Lynch: Stalin &
Khrushchev Wikipedia: Nikita
Khrushchev Sections 5 & 6

*Khrushchev removed
while on holiday
in the Crimea.*