Stalin’s Death, the Nuclear Question, and the German Question

1. Stalin’s Last Days
   Stalin’s March 10 1952 Note
   Western Reactions:
   
   Acheson
   Eden and EDC (European Defense Community)
   Adenauer
   German domestic situation: Kurt Schumacher’s SPD

2. Eisenhower Administration and the New Nuclear Strategy
   1951—Iran: Mohammed Mosadeq’s coup. Tudeh Party nationalized British oil company, CIA funded and planned operation against Mosadeq
   1951—Guatemala: President Jacob Albenz elected, nationalized Guatemala’s American United Fruit Company, CIA funded, and planned operation against Albenz
   1952, Egypt: Nasser’s coup against King Farouk’s regime
   1954: Vietnam: Dien Bien Phu, Vietminh won a decisive victory over the French

   1952 presidential election: Eisenhower administration’s platform
   John Foster Dulles, New Look and Roll-back policy (criticism of Truman’s containment)
   Security with solvency (balanced budged and roll-back policy)
   
   Nuclear strategy
   Stockpile:
   
   US: 2 (45), 9 (46), 13 (47), 50 (48), more than 1000 (53)
   SU: 10-20 (49), 100-200 (53)
   
   Massive retaliation
   Brinkmanship: Korean War, Vietnam, Offshore Crises (Quemoi/Matsu), 1954, 1958
   Vietnam (Geneva Conference)

3. Stalin’s Death and the New Soviet Leadership
   Stalin’s last days—preparing a large purge. Doctors’ Plot
   New leadership (collective leadership) quick to change Stalin’s legacies
   Stopped the purge
   Collective leadership established: (Beria, Malenkov, Khrushchev)
   New Peace Offensive
   Malenkov’s speech for peaceful coexistence
   Renounced the inevitability of war, called for nuclear disarmament
   Ending the Korean War (July 1953)
   Austrian Treaty (1955)
   Normalization of relations with FRG and Japan
   US reaction: Eisenhower’s “Chance for Peace” speech/Churchill’s urging to hold a summit

4. Beria and the German Question
   1952, first SDE Congress—socialization: rapid industrialization, collectivization, and the quota system mass exodus
   1953: Beria’s new peace offensive: “New Course” imposed on Walter Ulbricht
   Ulbricht’s reaction (refusal to rescind the quota system)
   June 16-17, Berlin Uprising, RIAS:s call for continuation of struggle; Soviet intervention
   Outcome: Soviet policy toward Ulbricht/SPD’s change of policy
   Adenauer’s victory in election
   West Germany admitted to NATO (1955): formation of Warsaw Pact Organization (1955)