The Crises of 1956: Poland, Hungary, and the Suez Crisis

1. 20th Party Congress
   - Khrushchev’s ascendancy, Malenkov’s defeat
   - 20th Party Congress
     --rejected the doctrine of inevitability of war
     --assessment of Third World nationalism
     --secret speech, de-Stalinization

2. Poland
   - Poznan uprising. Polish United Workers Party chose Wladyslaw Gomulka
   - Rokossowski dismissed as Defense Minister
   - Khrushchev’s visit to Warsaw
   - Khrushchev backed down
   - Dulles, Meet the Press statement

3. Hungary and Suez
   - October 23, riot begins.
   - Andropov telephoned Moscow calling for immediate military action
   - Khrushchev ordered Soviet tanks to be brought in to suppress the revolt
   - October 26, NSC meeting. Eisenhower’s position, Dulles speech
   - October 28, new Hungary leader Imre Nagy negotiated a truce
   - Soviet troops withdrew (tactical retreat)
   - October 29-30 Suez crisis began: British and French attack on Egypt
     - Gamal Abdul Nasser
     - Anglo-Egyptian Treaty (1954): British troops withdrew from Suez
     - Nasser’s project to build the Aswan Dam, with US loans
     - Nasser’s arms deal with Czechoslovakia
     - Nasser’s vilification of the Baghdad Pact
       - Baghdad Pact (Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Britain), 1954
     - Egypt’s recognition of Communist China
     - US withdrew loan from the Aswan Dam Project
     - Nasser sought Soviet help to finance the Aswan Dam Project
     - Nationalization of the Suez Canal
     - British-French-Israel secret plan to invade Egypt
     - October 29, Israel attack on Suez, British and French attack followed
     - US condemnation of British-French attack (October 30)
     - UN Security Council resolution for cease-fire and withdrawal of troops
   - October 29, Presidium meeting. Decision to invade Hungary
     - Khrushchev secured the approval of Chinese and Yugoslavia for invasion
     - US note to Yugoslavia
     - Soviets removed advisers and technicians, bombers from Egypt
     - Zhukov’s refusal to aid Egypt
   - Nov. 1, Nagy’s announcement to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact
   - Nagy’s appeal to the UN to recognize Hungary’s neutrality
   - Soviet invasion of Hungary: US refusal to recognize Hungarian neutrality
   - Nov. 2-3, UN Security Council to discuss Hungary, US abstention.
   - Nov. 4, Soviet troops crushed Hungarian resistance
   - Nagy fled to Yugoslavian Embassy, arrested, executed
   - November 4, Security Council resolution condemning Soviet invasion
     - General Assembly resolution passed.
   - Nov 5, Khrushchev’s threat to use atomic bomb against West

4. Consequences
   - Soviet control over Eastern Europe: Janos Kadar’s New Course
   - Two principles: maintenance of the communist dictatorship/Warsaw Pact
   - US control over Middle East: Eisenhower Doctrine (1958)