

Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing in its view of the reasons for Khrushchev being removed from power (30)

By the time that Khrushchev was removed from office, the international system had changed dramatically since the Stalinist era... Apart from the vexed question of Germany and particular, the status of Berlin, a state of *modus vivendi* (way of life) had been reached in Europe... The rifts which had developed between Khrushchev and Mao had proved fatal to Communist solidarity and, by the 1960s, global politics had developed into a triangular contest, with Moscow facing competition between both Beijing and Washington.... [especially] at a time when the allies in Eastern Europe, most noticeably in Hungary, had proved unreliable. The crisis in Cuba had also damaged the USSR. Khrushchev's strategy of deception had led to the unmasking of alleged superpower nuclear strength and had finally stirred his enemies in the Kremlin to move against him.

C. Kennedy-Pipe, *Russia and the World Since 1917*, 1998

So Khrushchev, despite his dominance, was beset by problems by the early 1960s. his political and economic changes were not as effective as he had anticipated. By removing aspects of Stalin's heritage and undertaking a semi-return to Leninism, he was solving a few problems but avoiding most. His failure was in some measure his fault. He had an erratic, autocratic personality and deeply authoritarian outlook. Yet his quarter-reforms of the Soviet order were probably the maximum that his close colleagues and the rest of the central and local elites would have tolerated at the time. The upholders of this order were too powerful, accomplished and confident for a more radical transformation.

Robert Service, *Russia: From Tsarism to the Twenty First Century*, 1997, pp.354-355

ANSWER 2 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. How far do you agree that the Crimean war had a greater impact on the economy of Russia in the period 1855-1964 than any other war?

2. The Tsars wanted to reform the nature of government more than the communists. To what extent do you agree with this view?

3. Assess the view that Russia's communist leaders did more than the Tsars to improve the lives of the peoples of Russia in the period 1855-1964.