

# Ability To Blame Others For His Own 'Boneheads' Marks Career Of Nikita

**Editor's Note:** He is in the news almost every day, but he is almost a man nobody knows — Nikita Khrushchev, the man the West must deal with in any summit sessions. What makes him run? How did he get where he is? How smart is he? These are some of the questions William L. Ryan, long a close student of the Soviet Union, takes up in the first of five informative articles.

**By WILLIAM L. RYAN**  
**AP Foreign News Analyst**

Long before anyone dreamed of Nikita Khrushchev as a future czar, a Western diplomat sized him up sternly as "that brilliant bonehead."

The man can bluster and guffaw his way with a terrifying air of carelessness toward the edge of global disaster. But he is no genius. His career has been dotted with bonehead plays.

In a meeting at the summit, nonetheless, Western statesmen would face a formidable antagonist, a dynamic bundle of reckless energy and dazzling paradoxes, far less predictable, potentially far more dangerous than the mighty Stalin.

One of his success secrets seems to be an astonishing knack for

blaming his own mistakes on others and getting away with it. Another has been an Olympian scorn of weakness and what he would regard as bourgeois morality.

Khrushchev knows only one truth. In a sense he is a missionary. He has referred piously to his "Communist faith." In propagating this faith, he has shown himself a true disciple of Lenin.

World communism as developed under Soviet control has one basic aim: to impose its political philosophy on the whole world. To accomplish this, any subterfuge, any lie, any deceit, any tactic is justified in Communist eyes.

Through a combination of this faith and his political ability, Khrushchev has survived revolution, civil war, bloodbath purges and dark intrigues. Nearing a durable 65 in April, he sometimes seems like an amiable hippo on a tightrope.

As Russian as a bowl of borscht, Khrushchev is master of the Soviet Union for the moment. And for the moment, he is master of the world conspiracy which goes by the name of communism.

Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev is by Soviet standards an "otchenunny chelovyek"—a very smart fellow. He boasts the physique of

a Russian bear. He combines seemingly boundless energy with a taste for intrigue and a talent for turning defeat into victory.

These attributes, along with his native peasant shrewdness, a stubbornly dogmatic mind and a lack of scruples, have made Khrushchev's life story a Communist-style saga of rags to riches.

The Khrushchev era in the U.S.S.R. is now about five years old. In that brief historical period the 5 foot 3, 220 lb. former coal miner has zoomed like a political Sputnik to the top of the Soviet heap.

Perhaps he went too far too fast. He is not yet the sole inheritor of Stalin's awesome power. Those who stood in the way of his climb have been silenced, but not eliminated. His victories have been dazzling, but their foundation is flimsy.

Khrushchev inherited a complex Soviet society, its needs enormous, its demands frightening.

Unschooling until he was in his mid-twenties, Khrushchev hardly could hope to understand the complexities of a new generation of arguing, searching, questioning, wondering.

Khrushchev's had been a far different world when he was a ragged boy tending sheep and learning the trades of blacksmith and locksmith.

He was born in a hovel in Kalinovka, in Kursk province, not far from the Ukraine, April 17, 1894. His father, Sergei, may have owned a small plot of land around the mud and reed hovel and thus have been a "kulak"—a landowning peasant. But his chief trade was that of coal miner. Nikita's grandfather had been a serf, one of the agricultural slaves freed by czar Alexander in 1861.

Nikita at 17 was working as a locksmith in a factory at Kharkov in the Ukraine. From there he traveled to the Donets Basin to work, like his father, in the coal mines. He was there, a young man of 23, when the Russian revolution burst out.

Khrushchev took no active part in the revolution against the czar. But in 1918, when the Bolsheviks were striking for power, he joined the party and served in the Donets Basin during the first part of the bloody civil war.

Somehow Khrushchev managed to bring himself to the attention of his superiors. While the civil war still raged, he became head of the agricultural section of the

army who sided with Trotsky and other enemies of Stalin.

His studies completed in 1931, Khrushchev became secretary of a regional Moscow party committee, once again the protégé of Kaganovich, then secretary of the Moscow committee and member of the ruling Central Committee.

Khrushchev went to various industrial centers to root out Stalin's enemies.

Khrushchev also threw himself with a will into Kaganovich's program for transforming Moscow doing much of the work of organizing labor for such projects as the celebrated Moscow subway. That won him the Order of Lenin.

A quarter century later Khrushchev would repay his benefactor by bouncing him out of the post-Stalin hierarchy, labeled an enemy of the party.

But in 1934 Khrushchev was just a Kaganovich man, and his boss got him finally on the powerful central committee. He now had a

firm grasp on the first run of his ladder to power.

For Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, life began at 40.

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# Members Meet In Capital To Mark NATO Birthday

WASHINGTON (AP)—A unique venture in international cooperation marks its 10th anniversary this week. It may chalk up many more birthdays before the world changes enough to wipe out its reason for being.

The lusty youngster is the North Atlantic Alliance. The 15 members of its North Atlantic Treaty Organization are returning to its birthplace, Washington, for a top level three-day meeting appropriate to the occasion.

President Eisenhower will address the opening session Thursday morning.

As usual, NATO's ruling body, its council composed of representatives from each country, will have plenty of international problems to talk about. The delegations will be headed by the foreign ministers.

A measure of NATO's importance is that it will deal with the top crisis of the moment, the German question. Its shortcomings will be underlined by the fact that the basic decisions will still be made among the big powers, making NATO a diplomatic clearing-house rather than policymaker.

As it now stands, NATO holds out a shield of political and military unity safeguarding free Europe, Canada and the United States from Soviet aggression.

NATO's enthusiasts credit it with thumping success, well worth the 25 billion dollars in U.S. aid to Europe's defense during the decade plus 89 billions put in by the Europeans themselves.

It was amid shock over speedy Communist expansion after World War II that the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington on April 4, 1949. The multi-billion-dollar Marshall Plan had been formed to pump life into Europe's ravaged economy. It alone seemed not enough to stem the Red tide.

The short Washington treaty spoke of promoting understanding of democracy and of wiping out economic conflict. But attention has focused then and since on the members' promise that an armed attack against one shall be considered an attack against all, and on their pledge of continuous, effective mutual efforts to build up capacity to resist attack.

There were outcries against the treaty, not just from the Kremlin. Some Americans saw a bleeding of the taxpayers and a defiance of George Washington's warning against entangling alliance. Some war-weary Europeans voiced fear of becoming a front-line defense for the United States.

Where pleas based on the common beliefs of free peoples on growing international dependence and on efficiency may not have been enough, the dark shadow of Moscow supplied the push needed for acceptance in the Western capitals. The U.S. Senate, which had already backed the idea by its June 1948 resolution authorized by the late Sen. Arthur Vandenberg (R-Mich.), voted for the Atlantic Pact 82-13 on July 21, 1949.

The original signers of the treaty were the United States and Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Britain. Greece and Turkey joined as anchors to the Mediterranean flank in February 1952.

West Germany, the former enemy now deemed vital to Europe's defense, joined in 1955.

NATO started as a mere shell of an organization, a stiff upper lip that showed determination to the Soviets, more than real power.

It soon became a bad four-letter word to the Kremlin.

When NATO in December 1950 picked the then Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower as its first supreme commander in Europe his forces numbered fewer than 20 divisions, 1,000 planes and 20 airfields. Today an atomic-equipped NATO boasts 100 active and reserve divisions, 5,000 planes, 150 airfields.

Perhaps even more important militarily is the advance planning for combined NATO action in wartime, peacetime training under a single command, weapons standardization, an intricate network of communications and supply lines combining for a power greater than the totals of separate national forces alone.

A military committee, quartered by representatives from the U.S., British and French chiefs of staff meeting continuously in Washington, presides over a chain of commands. The European command is headquartered just outside of Paris. An Atlantic command operates out of Norfolk, Virginia.

The Western allies showed they meant business by assigning their top men. Eisenhower was succeeded by American Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, Alfred M. Gruenther, and now Lauris Norstad. The No. 2 spot in the European command was filled until last September by Britain's Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery.

The highest permanent civilian post, secretary general, is filled by Paul-Henri Spaak three times prime minister of Belgium.

The council meets perhaps 100 times a year. Its permanent representatives have the rank of ambassador from the member countries. Two or three times a year the foreign ministers take over the seats. In December 1957 the council meeting was a summit conference in Paris of the heads of the NATO governments.

President Eisenhower sees NATO today as succeeding beyond the hopes of a decade ago. NATO's backers claim as top achievements a stopping of Soviet expansion in Europe, while life within NATO nations has improved.



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