Cooking Towards Communism: Domestic Cooking and the Khrushchev Regime's Struggle for the Communist Way of Life

32 Female communists were cast as "housekeepers of the revolution" who were to extend their housewifely practices of thrift and vigilance to the service of the state. See Wood, Elizabeth, The Baba and the Comrade (Bloomington, 1997); and Gorsuch, Youth in Revolutionary Russia, chap. 5. For the prerevolutionary history of such gender stereotypes, see Edmondson, Linda, "Women's Emancipation and Theories of Sexual Difference in Russia, 1850-1917," in Liljestrom, M., Mantysaari, E., and Rosenholm, A., eds., Gender Restructuring in Russian Studies (Tampere, 1993), 39–52. 

Khrushchev’s Life. Khrushchev was born on April 17, 1894 in a peasant hut in a poor Ukrainian village in Kalinovka in the Kursk region of southern Russia. Like his father, he became a coal miner and had very little education. Khrushchev became a contender for the Communist party leadership after Beria’s execution. After the elimination of Beria, the succession struggle became more subtle. Malenkov found a formidable rival in Khrushchev, whom the Presidium elected first secretary (Stalin’s title of general secretary was abolished after his death) in September 1953. Khrushchev’s primary domestic concerns were improving agriculture and creating enough housing to meet demand. When he took the helm, many people still lived in World War II ruins. Left communist theorists like CLR James and the Italian autonomists, as well as unorthodox Trotskyists like Tony Cliff have described Stalinism as state capitalism, a form of capitalism where the state takes the role of capital. Milovan Djilas argues that a New Class arose under Stalinism, a theory also put forward by various liberal theorists. Between December 1922 and January 1923 Lenin looked for the support of Trotsky against Stalin and his associates.