

deal on Soviet terms, while a more equitable negotiated settlement was rendered impossible by Khrushchev's pressure tactics. He achieved neither a settlement with the West nor victory over it. Khrushchev was an innovative thinker and a leader with vision, but his vision was flawed. He built the foundations for detente but could not erect a stable structure upon these foundations.

Khrushchev was ultimately a tragic figure. His colleagues eventually had enough of his impulsiveness and grandiose schemes, and they removed him from power in October 1964. He resigned in disgrace, largely unmourned in his own country and in the outside world. Yet even though his stormy leadership of the Soviet Union is best remembered as a time of recurrent international crises, he left a durable legacy by dismantling the Stalinist worldview. Khrushchev opened the door to detente even if he himself was unable to walk through it.