Sino Soviet Split: Causes and Events

Description
Both nations formed an alliance pledging mutual support for each other. However the relationship declined in the 1960s, culminating in a brief border war in 1969. China even sought closer relations with the USA.

Reasons for the breakdown

Historical Differences (1,5)
- Russia had seized Chinese territory in 19th century
- Bolsheviks seized Outer Mongolia in 1920s
- Manchuria stripped of $2 billion in equipment after WW2

Ideological Differences (3,4,5,6)
- Mao and Stalin differed over interpretation of Marxist revolution
- Mao sincerely believed that ‘continuing revolution’ with the West was the only way to ensure the victory of Communism.
- Stalin opposed Mao’s rise in CCP, argued over ‘continuing revolution’.
- Stalin believed that the KMT were better placed to re-unify China supported them even in the 1940s. Mao believed that Stalin wanted a weak China that he could dominate.
- Stalin believed revolution should be based on urban working class.
- Stalin’s mistrustful attitude to rivals with the Communist world
- Stalin did not want to spread Soviet commitments into Asia while solving European affairs

Political Differences (3,4,5)
- Mao opposed Khrushchev’s ‘peaceful co-existence’ policy, sought independence from Moscow
- USSR only gave conditional support during Korean War
- both sought leadership of international Communist movement.

Economic Differences (1)
- Argued over how to develop Chinese economy
- Great Leap Forward failure

Military Differences (2,7)
- USSR was reluctant to give China military aid and nuclear technology, China suspicious of this.

Rising up tension

1. Sino-soviet alliance treaties
- Signed in February 1950
- USSR promised economic assistance to China and protect in case of war with Japan again
- the USSR sent over 20,000 advisors to the PRC and helped construct over 200 industrial projects.
- Mao offended by the treatments (The treaty gave China $300 million in loans but was repayable, that PRC have to pay out the interests) (Mao also had to recognise Soviet control over Outer Mongolia and influence in Manchuria.)
- Khrushchev -- ‘an insult to the Chinese people’

2. Korean War
- China had to pay back to the USSR $1.35 billion in weapons it had supplied to China, even there were over 1 million Chinese troops fought, with over 700,000 casualties, in the war.
- Suggestions that stalin deliberately prevented an early armistice in order to exhaust the Chinese.
3. Khrushchev and De-stalinization
- the Soviet Union became ruled by Malenkov, Khrushchev and Bulganin.
- Tensions eased as the USSR began to supply China with loans and technology.
- Khushchev gave a speech criticising the personality cult of Stalin and his crimes.
- Mao interpreted this as an attack on himself too as he ruled China in a similar way to Stalin.

4. Khrushchev and Peaceful Co-existence
- K began calling for ‘peaceful co-existence’
- promoted better relations with the USA to avoid nuclear war
- Khrushchev was promising greater freedoms due to the ‘criticism of Stalin’
- Protests across Eastern Europe
- Uprising in Hungary in Nov 1956 was violently crushed

5. The 1957 Moscow Conference
- Meeting of World Communist Parties in Moscow to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution
- Mao made speeches warning Moscow to abandon ‘revisionism’ to return to the true Marxist-Leninist path.
- world revolution was only possible through armed struggle.

6. Khrushchev Visit to Beijing
- Disastrous condition during the visit
- Humiliate Khrushchev further by arranging meetings in his swimming pool
- K put in a hotel with no air conditioning
- The talks failed dramatically
- The USSR proposed to create with China submarines and radio stations
- Mao interpreted this as an attempt to ‘bring China under Soviet military control’.
- Deng Xiaoping criticized USSR for being too arrogant
- accused Soviet technical advisors in China of being spies

7. Taiwan Crisis
- Mao launched the attack shortly after Khrushchev had left Beijing.
- Mao was trying to prove his independence from the USSR
- test the USSR’s support for China.
- testing the US commitment to Taiwan.
- the crisis triggered a breakdown in Sino-Soviet relations.
- Khrushchev argued that he was unwilling to put the USSR at risk by ‘testing the stability of the capitalist system’
- USSR withdrew all its technical and scientific advisors from China in 1959

8. Great Leap Forward
- to famine and economic collapse within China
- The increasing failure of Mao’s ‘Great Leap Forward’ economic plan was criticised by the
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USSR.
- Soviet's press: ‘faulty in design and erroneous in practice’

Further Conflicts indicating Sino-Soviet Split

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9. Soviet-Albanian Split
- China immediately stepped in to supply Albania with technical and financial assistance
- Mao attempted to be the true leader of the Communist world.
- Albania criticised K for revisionism

10. End of Diplomatic Relations 1961
- Hoxha was attracted by Stalinist
  --> Zhou Enlai dramatically staged a rehearsed walk-out of the 22nd CPSU congress
  --> This ended diplomatic relations between the two nations
  --> Khrushchev called Mao an ‘Asian Hitler’ and Mao called Khrushchev ‘a redundant old
    boot’.

11. The Sino-Indian War
- In October 1962, a dispute over the Tibetan border between India and China broke out into
  fighting
- USSR had supported India by selling MIG fighter jets.
  --> Mao refused to allow the Soviet negotiator, Kosygin, to mediate the ceasefire.
  --> ended in November with China taking disputed areas

12. Cuban Missile Crisis
- Khrushchev backed-down by removing the missiles.
- Mao took the opportunity to attack the USSR.
- Mao ‘attacked the USSR for its ‘adventurism’ in placing missiles on Cuba and its
  ‘capitalisationism’
  --> showed Mao that the USSR was wrong in its revisionist policy of ‘peaceful-coexistence’.

- USSR only agreed to give China a nuclear deterrent if China allowed the USSR to control
  its use
- USSR and USA signed the Test Ban Treaty which suspended the atmospheric testing of
  nuclear bombs
  --> betrayal of the USSR, an attempt to ensure that China could not develop its own
    weapons