

## SYNOPSIS

### Nikita Sergeyevich by Robert J. McCreal

It's the start of the Cuban missile crisis and the Kennedy administration is desperate for intelligence. A Russian history expert DOROTHY PRESCOTT is summoned to the White House to provide the president and his key advisors valuable information on the background and personality of the volatile Soviet leader who initiated the threat. They need to know how Khrushchev may respond to their attempts to remove the deadly missiles from Cuba. Any miscalculation at this juncture could lead to the destruction of the world.

Through flashbacks Dorothy reveals Khrushchev's rise to power, his survival of Kremlin political intrigue and his aggressive foreign policy. The story begins in World War II when Khrushchev serves as STALIN'S loyal henchman. After the war Khrushchev would play a key role in the coup against BERIA who had succeeded the late Stalin in 1953. Beria is stripped of leadership and executed, paving the way for the Khrushchev era of the 1950s and early 1960s.

The change in leadership and style would soon become apparent not only in the Soviet Union but around the world. Replacing the cold, quiet, scheming ways of the Stalin, Beria, and Lenin regimes would be the administration of a boisterous, uneducated Ukrainian farmer, unashamed of his Marxist roots and desire for world domination. However, the Kremlin is a dangerous place, and Khrushchev's dramatic denunciation of the revered Stalin in 1956 leads to a plot to remove him from power. Khrushchev survives, thanks to the Soviet army led by war hero GENERAL ZHUKOV.

But despite the successes of launching the Sputnik satellite in space and thwarting a rebellion against the Communist government in neighbouring Hungary, Khrushchev's policies have undermined the Soviet economy. It trails Western powers like the United States. And the expansion of Marxism beyond Asia and Eastern Europe has stopped.

Everything changes when Khrushchev learns of the Communist revolution in Cuba. Having a Marxist ally so close to American shores is too tempting to the ambitious Khrushchev and he vows to protect CASTRO'S existence at all costs – including the installation of Soviet nuclear missiles. Everyone holds their breath as the fate of the world now rests on the decisions of two men. In the face of tremendous pressure from both American and Soviet military leaders, had it not been for the diplomacy of Kennedy and Khrushchev's willingness to compromise, the world as we know it may have ceased to exist.

Shortly after the crisis ends, the Kremlin hardliners view Khrushchev's politics and personality as intolerable and he is removed from power. However, because of his reforms Khrushchev, unlike Beria, does not leave office feet first.

Sputnik, Cuba, the UN debate, Hungary, the Berlin Wall – all these symbols of the Cold War are dwarfed by the raised fist image of the most infamous figure of the era – Khrushchev.