

Last years several editions of documents, memoirs and monographs appeared dealing with the situation in the Soviet leadership. These theses summarize the research of these above-mentioned publications.

In the postwar period the rivalries between individuals became more intense. The core group of leaders that formed around Stalin in the 1920s (Molotov, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Andreyev and Mikoian) was supplemented by a younger generation of leaders after 1937-1938 (Malenkov, Beria, Bulganin, Khrushchev, Voznesenskiy). But the manner of Stalin's interaction with these subordinates also changed. At the end of war no time was lost in restoring the prewar structure of Party and government.

In September 1945 the State Defense Committee was abolished and his authority distributed among the regular governmental organs. Into the power group belonged members of Politburo, Secretariat and Presidium of government. In March 1946 at the first postwar plenum CPSU was elected the Politburo consisting of Stalin, Molotov, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Mikoian, Andreev, Khrushchev, Zhdanov, Kalinin and new members Malenkov, Beria and four candidate members Shvernik, Voznesenskiy, Bulganin and Kosygin. In Secretariat of Central Committee CPSU were elected Stalin, Zhdanov, Malenkov, Kuznetsov and Popov.

After the plenum CPSU the leading role was taken by an alliance of Zhdanov (prominent party figure and head of ideology) and Voznesenskiy (the head of Gosplan). During the war years Beria and Malenkov had been closely associated, while the rivalry between them and Zhdanov's group, who was liquidated after Zhdanov died (in August 1948) in "Leningrad affair" in 1950.

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