

= Andrei Kirilenko (politician) =

Andrei Pavlovich Kirilenko (Russian : ????? ? ? ? ? ?????? ?????? ? ??? ; IPA : [?n?dr?ej ?pavl?v??t? k??r??l?nk?] ; 8 September [O.S. 26 August] 1906 ? 12 May 1990) was a Soviet statesman from the start to the end of the Cold War . In 1906 , Kirilenko was born at Alexeyevka in Belgorod Oblast to a Ukrainian working @-@ class family . He graduated in the 1920s from a local vocational school , and again in the mid @-@ to @-@ late 1930s from the Rybinsk Aviation Technology Institute . He became a member of the All @-@ Union Communist Party (bolsheviks) in 1930 . As many like him , Kirilenko climbed up the Soviet hierarchy through the " industrial ladder " ; by the 1960s , he was Vice @-@ Chairman of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) . After Nikita Khrushchev 's forced resignation , Kirilenko became Leonid Brezhnev 's " chief lieutenant " within the Central Committee . His main objective was to ensure Brezhnev 's power base and , if possible , to strengthen Brezhnev 's position within the Party . He was the first organisational secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) from Khrushchev 's ouster to the death of Leonid Brezhnev . Kirilenko was responsible for personnel selection and detailed supervision of the economic planning of the CPSU during most of the Brezhnev Era . In 1976 , Brezhnev appointed Konstantin Chernenko to be his " counterweight " in the Central Committee (CC) . He became a member of the Political Bureau (Politburo) in 1965 . He was forced to resign from active politics due to health reasons and because Yuri Andropov was appointed to the General Secretaryship . When Andropov became General Secretary in 1982 , Kirilenko was pushed aside . He died on 12 May 1990 in Moscow .

= = Early life and career = =

Andrei Kirilenko was born on 8 September 1906 in the village of Alexeyevka , Belgorod Oblast , in the Russian Empire , to a working @-@ class family . As a young boy , he worked as an electrician and a locksmith . In 1920 , Kirilenko graduated from one of the local schools ; five years later , he graduated from the Alekseevskii vocational technical school . In the mid @-@ to @-@ late 1920s , Kirilenko started working for a mining enterprise located in the Voronezh Oblast . He became an active member of Komsomol in 1929 and , two years later , became a member of the All @-@ Union Communist Party . In 1936 , he graduated from the Rybinsk Aviation Technology Institute . He started working as a design engineer for the aircraft factory , Zaporizhia Engine Plant . In 1938 , Kirilenko became an active participant in party politics and was eventually selected to the position of Second Secretary of the Voroshilov District Party Committee in Zaporozhye Oblast . The following year , he was voted in as First Secretary . Later that year he was appointed to Second Secretary of the Zaporizhzhya Regional Party Committee of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic . In this role , Kirilenko made significant contributions to the development of metallurgical and electrical engineering , but also other sorts of industry .

During the Great Patriotic War , Kirilenko was directly involved with evacuating industry to safe zones . From 1941 to 1943 , he was a member of the Military Soviet of the 18th Army of the Southern Front . He contributed by improving discipline among soldiers as well as improving the materiel support for the troops . In 1943 , Kirilenko was relocated to Moscow , and during his stay there the production of advanced aircraft increased rapidly . By the end of the war , in 1944 , Kirilenko was made First Secretary of the Zaporizhzhya Regional Party . He succeeded Leonid Brezhnev , future Soviet leader , as First Secretary of the Dnepropetrovsk Regional Party Committee . From 1955 to 1962 , he was First Secretary of the Sverdlovsk Regional Party Committee ; he was appointed by Nikita Khrushchev himself to take charge of economic planning and personnel selection in urban areas of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) . Kirilenko was later promoted to Khrushchev 's Vice @-@ Chairman of the Bureau of the Central Committee . Brezhnev benefited from Kirilenko 's position , Brezhnev used him to win over supporters of his conspiracy against Khrushchev .

= = Brezhnev era = =

= = = Rise to prominence = = =

Immediately after Khrushchev 's ouster , a " collective leadership " had been formed with Brezhnev as First Secretary , Alexei Kosygin as head of government and Anastas Mikoyan (replaced in 1965 by Nikolai Podgorny) as head of state . Central Committee Secretaries Mikhail Suslov and Kirilenko were also a part of the collective leadership . In 1962 , Kirilenko became a voting member of the Political Bureau (Politburo) . In 1966 , the Bureau of the Central Committee of the RSFSR was abolished , and Kirilenko became Brezhnev 's chief lieutenant . Vadim Medvedev , a Soviet official , said Kirilenko 's chief concern was maintaining and strengthening Brezhnev 's position within the Party . Men who were loyal to Brezhnev were also loyal to Kirilenko .

Konstantin Chernenko , another old Brezhnev protégé , became a " counterweight " to Kirilenko 's power within the Central Committee (CC) . Before Chernenko 's rise in the Soviet hierarchy , Kirilenko provided detailed supervision of new party personnel and the economy . When Chernenko came on board in 1976 , Kirilenko supervised the economy . By the mid @-@ to @-@ late 1970s , Kirilenko 's health was beginning to decline , and his memory weakened . Despite his failing health , he was still a high @-@ standing member , and he usually presided over the meetings of the Secretariat when Suslov was not around . First World representatives treated Kirilenko as Second Secretary of the Communist Party because most of his duties as organisational secretary had been associated with that office in the past . He was never Second Secretary , though Suslov was . During most of his term , Kirilenko was one of four who had both a seat in the Secretariat and Politburo ; the three others were Brezhnev , Suslov and Fyodor Kulakov .

By 1976 Kirilenko 's position within the Soviet leadership had grown to such an extent that leading officials , such as Brezhnev and Suslov , were beginning to worry about his " organisational tail " in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) . His supervisory responsibilities led many of his colleagues to view him as a threat to the Party Organisational Work Department of the Central Committee ? the Central Committee department overseeing the civilian economy and the military @-@ industrial complex . His position was weakened drastically by the end of the year , his weakened position did not lead to a strengthening of the Collective leadership but to the weakening of it .

= = = Later career and resignation = = =

As with Kosygin , Kirilenko 's leading position in the Soviet leadership was in " limbo " due to his support for economic reform to countenance the country 's stagnating economy . Kirilenko grew increasingly estranged with Brezhnev in 1977 , some believe that it was due to the growing economic hardship that faced the Soviet Union . It is said that the two argued over resource allocation and on how to modernise the ailing economy . However , the most common explanation is that Kirilenko grew estranged was because of his weakened position within the Collective leadership .

Kirilenko led the Soviet delegation to the December 1977 MPLA Party Congress . At this congress , MPLA officially subscribed to the doctrine of Marxist @-@ Leninism . This congress was important to the Soviet Union , and Kirilenko compared Angola 's development with that of Vietnam . Kirilenko , along with Premier Kosygin , had been one of the most vocal opponents to a Soviet intervention in Afghanistan . He blamed the Afghan Party leadership for the rebellion against them , claiming that the Soviets " gave them everything . " He also disliked it when the Afghan leadership tried to justify their murderous actions on the grounds that Vladimir Lenin also did it .

Kirilenko was seen as a possible candidate for the post of First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in 1977 , however , First World observers tended to overrate the significance of the office , and because of it , their observation were completely off the mark . Vasili Kuznetsov , a 76 @-@ year @-@ old man , was chosen to the office of First Deputy Chairman instead . During Brezhnev 's later rule , KGB chairman Yuri Andropov gradually took over the functions and ,

eventually , Kirilenko 's position within the Soviet leadership . In 1979 , Kirilenko lost his unofficial office as supervisor of the defence industry over to Pavel Finogenov , a protégé of Dmitriy Ustinov . Kirilenko was seen as a key candidate by the West to replace Brezhnev as Soviet leader in 1982 . After Brezhnev 's death , Kirilenko was removed from the ruling Politburo by the new General Secretary Andropov . With his deteriorating health , having a disease known as arteriosclerosis , Kirilenko was disabled from ensuing active politics or protecting himself from Andropov 's attacks . After Brezhnev 's death and funeral , Kirilenko 's mental condition deteriorated to where he could not remember the names of several leading Politburo members . He was unable to write properly during his later life ; when asked by Andropov to write a letter of resignation in 1982 , he was unable to do so . The decision to remove Kirilenko was taken before Andropov rose to power , so in the event Brezhnev had died later , Kirilenko would still have been forced to resign . The reason for the decision was that Kirilenko 's son had tried to defect to the United Kingdom .

= = Later life , death and recognition = =

When compared to other Soviet politicians who shared the same fate , Kirilenko 's downfall was , according to historian R. Judson Mitchell , a " relatively easy " fall from power . At Brezhnev 's lying @-@ in @-@ state and subsequent funeral , he was allowed to stand next besides Brezhnev 's family even if he wasn 't a member of the Soviet leadership at the time . Kirilenko made his last public appearance in 1983 , and was given an honorary retirement the same year . Mitchell believes that Andropov gave Kirilenko the honorary retirement so that he could win over Kirilenko 's " organisational tail " , literally Kirilenko 's appointees to top @-@ ranking offices during his years in service . He lived the rest of his life in Moscow and died on 12 May 1990 . He was buried at the Troyekurovskoye Cemetery . During his lifetime , he was awarded the Hero of Socialist Labour twice , and he received six Orders of Lenin and one Order of the October Revolution .