Europe and China. ???: ???: edited by Martin McCauley and Stephen Carter ???: Leadership and Succession in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe. What remains is its Marxist ideology, shorn of its Leninist—and, in China, much of. They believed that feudal Russia would have to pass through the capitalist phase Stalin died in 1953, and Soviet leadership was eventually taken over by. of a separate East German state, which in a rapid succession of moves merged