

Forum: Historical Crisis Committee (HCC)

Issue: Measures to prevent the threat of nuclear warfare from global superpowers and its collateral damage (Cuban Missile Crisis)

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Introduction

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a thirteen-day military and political confrontation between the Soviet Union, the United States, and Cuba over the installation of Soviet missiles on Cuba in 1962. The main causes for this event were the Cuban Revolution, the Bay of the Pigs Disaster, and the Arms Race. The biggest impact of the crisis was the political isolation Cuba would endure in the following decades. Cuba's relations with the Soviet Union weakened with Nikita Khrushchev's (1953-1964) Regime. Khrushchev saved Cuba's communism from an invasion by the US, and successfully negotiated a deal to remove the US's missiles from Turkey. The crisis also helped strengthen US President, John F. Kennedy's image, both domestically and internationally. It also allowed the Cuban Revolution to prolong itself. The biggest outcome of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty of 1963, which banned nuclear weapons testing above ground.

Definition of Key Terms

Missile

It is an object (such as a weapon) thrown or projected, usually so as to strike something at a distance.

Quarantine

The act to detain in or exclude by quarantine. This includes the isolation of an object for a certain period of time to be kept without normal relations or communication.

Invasion

An incursion of a country using armed force; typically carried out by an army for conquest or plunder.

Arms Race

A competition or race between two opposite nations fighting to improve their military force and weapons.

Soviet Union

The Soviet Union was a communist country in eastern Europe and northern Asia that was established in 1922. It included Russia and 14 other countries. Officially dissolved at the end of 1991.

Dismantle

The act of removing or taking off. Regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis, it refers to the removal of the missiles from Cuba.

Deterrent

Something that discourages or is intended to discourage someone from doing something.

Cold War

A geopolitical conflict over ideological differences. Most known for the ideological conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the second half of the 20th century.

Refrained

To keep oneself from doing, feeling, or indulging in something, especially from following a passing impulse.

Tension

A state of an invisible hostility or opposition between individuals or groups.

Nuclear

An explosive device whose destructive power derives from an uncontrolled nuclear reaction.

Political Isolation

It is the political principle or practice of showing interest only in your own country and not being involved in international activities.

Guerilla

A person who engages in irregular warfare, especially as a member of an independent unit carrying out harassment and sabotage.

General Overview

The Cuban Revolution

The Cuban Revolution, and armed revolt to push out the current dictatorship led by revolutionary politician Fidel Castro, was one of the first causes that led to the Cuban Missiles Crisis. The first victory of the Revolution began in 1959, where an army led by Fidel Castro defeated the Fulgencio Batista's current dictatorship at the time. Its first attempt on July 26, 1953, on the military buildings was a failure, but the determination of Castro's guerilla group seeking a government reform, ended up gaining control of Cuba by the end of the year. This forced Fulgencio Batista to flee the country by the beginning of 1954. Through the civil war, Batista saw a need for implementing consequences such as eliminating freedom of speech and started being more strict with making anyone related to Castro's revolution follow the laws. With Castro's government take over, The United States' relationships with Cuba started to worsen. With Castro's communist regime, Cuba created close ties with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was the enemy of the US in the current situation of the Cold War. The political relationship between the US and Cuba was officially refrained in 1961 and leading situations after that created tension between the two countries such as The Bay of the Pigs invasion.

The Bay of Pigs Invasion

The Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 was a failed invasion led by the CIA under Kennedy's control, in an attempt to overthrow the president of Cuba at the time, Fidel Castro. On April 17, 1961, a military invasion into Cuba, thought to be the cause to the end of Castro's regime, was inflicted upon 1,400 Cubans that had been trained and backed by the US. Said Cubans were opposers of the Revolution, who had fled the country after Castro had taken over. Even though this was a full-scale invasion, Castro's army outnumbered the US-backed militant group, and in less than 24 hours of fighting, the invaders were forced to

surrender. Castro's victory was welcomed by many Cubans, but the US had begun to suspect the Cuban Revolution to be a communist one; which posed a threat to the US's ideological power and hegemony in the region. . Although Batista's regime have been a dictatorship, he ruled in favor of the status-quo, and was heavily supported by the US . On the other hand, Castro upheld communist ideologies, and when in power decided to reduce American influence and involvement in Cuba. When Kennedy came into power, regardless of several advisors suggesting that Castro was no real threat, Kennedy wanted to show the Soviet Union and other countries doubting him, how serious he was about winning the Cold War.

The Arms Race

An arms race happens when two or more countries increase their military forces and weapons to become more powerful. This is why it is called an arms race because it is competing for a better army. Leading up to the Cuban Missiles Crisis, there was an arms race between the US and the Soviet Union with Cuba. This tension between both parties began after World War II during the Cold War when there was a conflict of ideologies between both nations. The Soviet Union aimed to spread the idea of communism, while the US propelled an idea of democracy. The Cold War's arms race came to a climax when the US tried to overthrow the Cuban president at the time, Fidel Castro. This failed invasion called, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, caused the Soviet Union to increase its military weapons by implementing nuclear weapons in Cuba. This would prevent any future inventions made by the US. When the US noticed these weapons being implemented, they quarantined the country and demanded the Soviet Union to remove everything.

Major Parties Involved and Their Political Views

Nikita Khrushchev

Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev was the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Premier of the Soviet Union. He was part of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and a member of the Bolsheviks. In 1919, he joined the Red Army, where he was a junior political commissar. He later became a full member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Khrushchev was a passionate supporter of Stalin at the time and participated in the Great Purge in the 1930s. In 1938, he became a candidate member of the Politburo, and the following year, he was made a full member. In 1953, Khrushchev replaced Stalin as First Secretary after his death. He denounced Stalin's crimes and liberated and rehabilitated thousands of political prisoners. He embarked on a policy known as de-Stalinization. Khrushchev's ideology, better known as Khrushchevism, was a combination of Marxism and Leninism.

John F. Kennedy

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the 35th President of the United States, serving from 1961 until his assassination in 1963. As explained by The White House, Kennedy was the youngest president in US History. Born in Brookline, Massachusetts in 1917, Kennedy was of Irish Descent. A Harvard graduate, he enlisted in the navy in 1941. Afterward, he became a Democratic congressman for Boston, which then lead him to join the Senate. Kennedy was a member of the Democratic Party. He was known for introducing the idealism of "a new generation of Americans," supporting the US Space Program, and demonstrating true leadership during major events such as the establishment of the Peace Corps and the continuation of the Apollo program. According to "John F. Kennedy", "His administration thus saw the beginning of new hope for both the equal rights of Americans and the peace of the world."

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1947	The beginning of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States of America over political ideologies.
1959	The Cuban Revolution was finally successful to overthrow the current president, Fulgencio Batista, after several attempts. This revolution was led by Fidel Castro, who ended up taking control of Cuba. This worsened Cuba's relationship with the United States.
1961	The occurrence of the Bay of Pigs Invasion, where the United States attempted to invade Cuba to overthrow communist president Fidel Castro. The invasion was a failure because Castro's army outnumbered the invaders, and they were forced to surrender.
October 15, 1962	CIA analyst spots missiles and launchers in Cuba, indicating the Soviet Union was building missile sites that posed a threat of attack to the United States.
October 16, 1962	President Kennedy is informed about missile findings and discussions on how to proceed are considered. Two main solutions are presented: an air strike and invasion or a naval quarantine with the threat of military force.
October 18, 1962	President Kennedy is visited by the Soviet Foreign Minister, who reassures that the Soviet Union's help to Cuba is only defensive.
October 20, 1962	Solution of a naval quarantine is agreed on and plans are

created.

October 22, 1962

President Kennedy announces to the public his plans on the naval blockade of Cuba.

October 23, 1962

U.S. Ambassador, Adlai Stevenson, explains the matter to the UN National Security Council. US ships move into Cuba, as well as Soviet Union submarines that are going to defend.

October 24, 1962

Khrushchev accuses Kennedy from threatening the Soviet Union.

October 25, 1962

Soviet fighters head back to Europe. The Bucharest tanker approaches the US quarantine zone. Two US ships ready to intercept it, which could lead to war. Kennedy decided to let it pass because it is only carrying oil.

October 26, 1962

Fidel Castro sends a letter to Khrushchev, urging him to start a nuclear strike against the US first. Instead, Khrushchev writes to Kennedy, proposing that they will remove the missiles if they remove the quarantine and pledge that the US will not invade Cuba.

October 27, 1962

A US plane is shot down over Cuba, with the death of Major Rudolf Anderson, Jr. Kennedy understands that the plane was not shot down from Khrushchev instructions. Later that night, Khrushchev sent another letter urging Kennedy to also remove the missiles in Turkey as part of the deal.

October 28, 1962

The last day of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Khrushchev and Kennedy

agree to the proposed solution.

Different Pathways For The Committee

There are numerous pathways in which the committee can move forward, depending on the actions taken by the delegates.

A possible pathway the committee could take could be centered on the evasion or the action of warfare, with the delegates deciding to enter into combat or abstain and find an amicable solution. This could lead to various arguments, as delegates must comprise and find a solution that benefits all parties involved, despite their political standpoints.

Another possible pathway would be to have negotiations between countries, in an attempt to create a treaty of neutrality. This will lead to commitments on behalf of the United States and the Soviet Union to reach a long-term agreement and avoid escalating the situation further while having each other's allies hold them accountable.

When the Committee Begins

It is October 16, 1962, and the most critical and dangerous days of the Cuban Missile Crisis have begun. John F. Kennedy, current President of the United States, and other American officials have just been briefed on the findings of Soviet nuclear-armed missiles in Cuba. Discussions have begun on how to address and react to the challenge at hand. Two options are offered: private communication between Kennedy and the Soviet Union's premier, Nikita Khrushchev, or the deployment of American missiles in ally nations.

Let the crises ensue.

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Appendix

- I. Detailed Description of the Cuban Missile Crisis Timeline with Official Documents

<https://microsites.jfklibrary.org/cmc/oct16/index.html>

II. Brief Analysis of Different Causes for the Cuban Missile Crisis

<https://www.historyhit.com/key-causes-of-the-cuban-missile-crisis/>

III. General Article of the Cuban Missile Crisis

<https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cuban-missile-crisis>

IV. Impact of the Cuban Missile Crisis

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Impact-of-the-Cuban-Missile-Crisis>

V. A Complete Overview of the Cuban Missile Crisis with Additional Background Information

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera/1960s-america/a/the-cuban-missile-crisis>