

Forum:	Historical Joint Crisis Committee (HJCC)
Issue:	Cuban Missile Crisis (October 16 - 28, 1962)
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Introduction

From 1947 to 1991 the United States competed with the Soviet Union for military and political superiority around the globe. Throughout this period of time, which is now known as the Cold War, the United States found themselves worrying about Soviet expansion into Eastern Europe, while the Soviet Union, in turn, resented the US's capitalist ideologies and their interventionist policy, when it comes to international relations. Tensions would rise between the two countries, resulting in multiple proxy wars and the development and innovation of nuclear weapons. By the late 1950's, missile technology enabled medium range missiles with nuclear payload to strike targets 480 to 965 kilometers away. The United States was the first to capitalize on this technological advantage, and in 1961, John F. Kennedy, the president of the United States, stationed missiles in Turkey, Italy, and other NATO allies, threatening the Soviet Union with first strike capability. Shortly after, Nikita Khrushchev, the premier of the Soviet Union, ordered to secretly station intermediate and short range missiles in Cuba, with the permission and assistance of Fidel Castro, the Prime Minister of Cuba that had recently come into power through the Cuban Revolution. The stationing of nuclear missiles in Turkey and Cuba threatened both the US and the USSR, leading into a period of extremely high tensions all around the world, better known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. During the Crisis, both countries could easily destroy each other with just a push of a button, meaning that if the US and the USSR did not settle their disputes through diplomatic means, the world would be in full out nuclear war.

Definition of Key Terms

The Cold War

The Cold War was a period of high tensions, from 1947 to 1991, between the Soviet Union and the United States, along with their respective allies. Tensions grew between the two countries as each

started to quickly develop, test, and refine their own nuclear weapons in a race to prove their military superiority. This quickly escalated and the two countries started to strategically place nuclear missiles in threatening locations, leading into what is known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Nuclear Ballistic Missiles

Rocket propelled explosive weapons that deal a great amount of damage, as they rely on nuclear reactions, as well as gravity, to deal a destructive force. These missiles are also highly accurate, as they are guided during the beginning stages of the launch. There are multiple types of missiles that vary in range and in the way they launch. Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBMs) are effective up to 480 kilometers and are launched from railroad cars or wheeled trailers. Medium Range Ballistic Missiles (MRBMs) are effective to 480 to 965 kilometers and are also launched from railroad cars or wheeled trailers. Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBMs) are effective from 965 to 5,310 kilometers and, just like SRBMs and MRBMs, are launched from railroad cars or wheeled trailers. Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) are effective to more than 5,310 kilometers, while they are generally launched from missile silos.

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

A doctrine which stated that in the case of the usage of nuclear weapons from two or more opposing sides would cause the destruction of both sides. This deterred both the United States and the Soviet Union from shooting their nuclear missiles as the first strike would inevitably lead to a second strike, spelling total annihilation for both sides.

Background Information

The Cold War (1947-1991)

The Cold War was a period of high tension -- with a looming possibility of a third world war -- between Capitalist and Communist countries, led by two world powers: the US and the USSR. Key events that happened during the Cold War would include the emergence of proxy wars, as well as the space race and arms race. One key component of the Cold War that relates to the Cuban Missile Crisis would be the Arms Race -- a race in which the two powers competed to create bigger weapons or stronger nuclear bombs. Countries soon started to develop missiles with bigger and better capabilities, resulting in mounting tension where the world seemed to be at the verge of nuclear war. The Cuban Missile Crisis is regarded as a depiction of the tensions felt during the Cold War. Over the 13 days, leaders worked together to ensure that there would be no all-out nuclear war.

Bay of Pigs Invasion

The Bay of Pigs Invasion was one of the defining events that happened leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis. This invasion is seen as a failure on John F. Kennedy's part, -- as he had failed to provide the Cuban rebels with the aid he had promised -- which may have prompted him to act more carefully during the crisis itself. Rebels against Castro's revolution who had been exiled had invaded Cuba's southern shore -- the Bay of Pigs. Within one day, Castro and his soldiers had captured over 1100 prisoners and killed more than 100.

Communist Nations and Individuals Involved

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

Premier Nikita Khrushchev rose to power as the USSR's premier after being named into the new office of the Secretariat of the Communist Party. He was then named the secretary of the party in 1953. After Stalin's death, Khrushchev seized power of the USSR and became their premier. The USSR has been actively sending and manufacturing ballistic missiles in Cuba, and Khrushchev has the power to remove these missiles, or defy Kennedy's requests and continue to manufacture them.

Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin was the Soviet ambassador to the US and played a crucial role during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Dobrynin was key for the contact between the Kennedy administration and the USSR. Dobrynin and Robert Kennedy had also met in secret countless times to come up with treaties to bring the Cuban Missile Crisis to an end. Because of Dobrynin and Kennedy's special roles in this crisis, the decisions made during their meetings can shift the power dynamics between the two countries, as well as the solutions found.

The Republic of Cuba

President Fidel Castro was Cuba's Prime Minister during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Castro had assumed complete control over Cuba after leading the Cuban Revolution and overthrowing former president Fulgencio Batista. During the Cold War, Castro and Khrushchev had negotiated terms to bring as well as build missiles in Cuba. This decision led to the crisis, and ultimately gave Castro a substantial amount of power during the crisis as well.

Vice President Raúl Castro is President Fidel Castro's brother, and served as the Vice President at the time of the crisis. As he was one of the most powerful figures in Cuba, Castro

played a very important role during the Cuban Missile Crisis, working alongside Fidel Castro to maintain the manufacturing of missiles and their partnership with the USSR.

The German Democratic Republic

First Secretary Walter Ulbricht served as the most prominent leader of Germany during this crisis. A communist politician, Ulbricht served as the leader of a country aligned with the values of the USSR. Despite the decline in power and status Germany experienced since WWII, Germany still played a relatively important role in Europe, and Ulbricht was able to make decisions that would sway the German-USSR relations.

Chairman Otto Grotewohl worked alongside Ulbricht during the Cuban Missile Crisis (as well as the Cold War) to ensure that their parties ideologies were being honored and implemented. Grotewohl was yet another high status leader in Germany who supervised many aspects of German life. Being in this position of power, Grotewohl -- working with Ulbricht -- can make various choices that would lead to success or failure of the USSR, depending on what choices and suggestions are given.

Capitalist Nations and Individuals Involved

The United States of America (US)

President John F. Kennedy was the US President at the time of this crisis. Kennedy was previously blamed for the failure of the Bay of Pigs Invasion, as he pulled US troops out of Cuba and did not provide the promised aid to the Cuban rebels. Kennedy was one of the key players during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and was key for maintaining peace between the USSR and the US. Kennedy had executive power to start quarantines, turn away USSR ships, and oversee decisions that could ultimately lead to an all out nuclear war.

US Attorney General Robert Kennedy was John F. Kennedy's brother, as well as the US Attorney General during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Robert Kennedy and Ambassador Antony Dobrynin had met on numerous occasions to negotiate treaties and deals that prevented nuclear war. Kennedy was yet another powerful figure in the crisis, and the negotiations he had with Dobrynin -- alongside the relationship between John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev -- determined the outcome of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The United Kingdom (UK)

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan was the UK Prime Minister during a period of the Cold War, including the Cuban Missile Crisis. As the Prime Minister of the UK, Macmillan was not only a key player in the UK government, but also in NATO affairs. Macmillan was a believer in nuclear deterrents, which could have played a role in his beliefs and strategies throughout the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Deputy Prime Minister Rab Butler has been regarded as one of the more cunning officials that has been in a position of power in the UK. He had worked closely with Macmillan on numerous occasions, including the Cuban Missile Crisis. Both Butler and Macmillan were conservative politicians, and thus would share more similar ideologies while working alongside each other during the crisis.

The Republic of Turkey

Prime Minister İsmet İnönü held a position of great power in Turkey during the crisis. Kennedy and İnönü had agreed on storing missiles in Turkey, which later on became something the USSR used to leverage power during the negotiation.

Deputy Prime Minister Turhan Feyzioğlu was yet another key figure in Turkish politics during the Cuban Missile Crisis. As Deputy Prime Minister, Feyzioğlu was a key figure in the ongoing talks between the US and Turkey, especially when it came to missile storage. These two government heads had negotiated and agreed to storing missiles in Turkey, which later on became one of the main reasons the USSR agreed to remove their missiles from Cuba.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
September 15th, 1962	First missiles (MRBMs) are placed in Cuba by the USSR
October 15th, 1962	Agents spot launchers and transport trucks belonging to the Soviet Union in Cuba from photos taken the day before
October 22nd, 1962	US President John F Kennedy demands the Soviets to withdraw all weapons that were in Cuba, and officially quarantines Cuba
October 25th, 1962	A Soviet tanker heads to the quarantine zone which could have led to war. Kennedy lets them through since they were not carrying contraband
October 28th, 1962	Former president of the USSR Nikita Khrushchev agrees to dismantle and remove missiles from Cuba, as the US agreed to remove missiles from Turkey
November 5th, 1962	The last USSR missiles are removed from Cuba

November 20th, 1962 Kennedy officially ends the naval quarantine

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- The Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, August 5, 1963.

Possible Solutions

There could be a treaty of non proliferation but continued deployment of nuclear warheads. The USA would remove their naval blockade around Cuba and nearby international waters in exchange for both sides agreeing not to produce and ship any more nuclear weapons than already present. Each side would be allowed to keep their missiles, the USA's in Italy and Turkey and the soviet union's within Cuba.

The USA and USSR could agree to an act of complete disarmament and forfeit all nuclear weapons. Both nations would agree to overturn all their nuclear weapons to relevant IGO's. The act of detonating a nuclear weapon even during times of war could have humanitarian ramifications so severe they should not be allowed to persist. The act of owning nukes itself would become a punishable act and maximum political or possibly militaristic action would be taken to reprimand such behavior.

Both the United States and Soviet Union would agree to an agreement of controlled resource distribution. The cold war is more of a resource based conflict rather than an ideological one, by expanding trade transparency and allocating international resources systematically, there would be no conflict between the two nations, thus eliminating the need for aggressive positioning of nuclear weapons.

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