

CUBA CRISIS

Cold War 10
Cuba

IT'S
HISTORY





Fidel Castro
Communist Dictator of Cuba

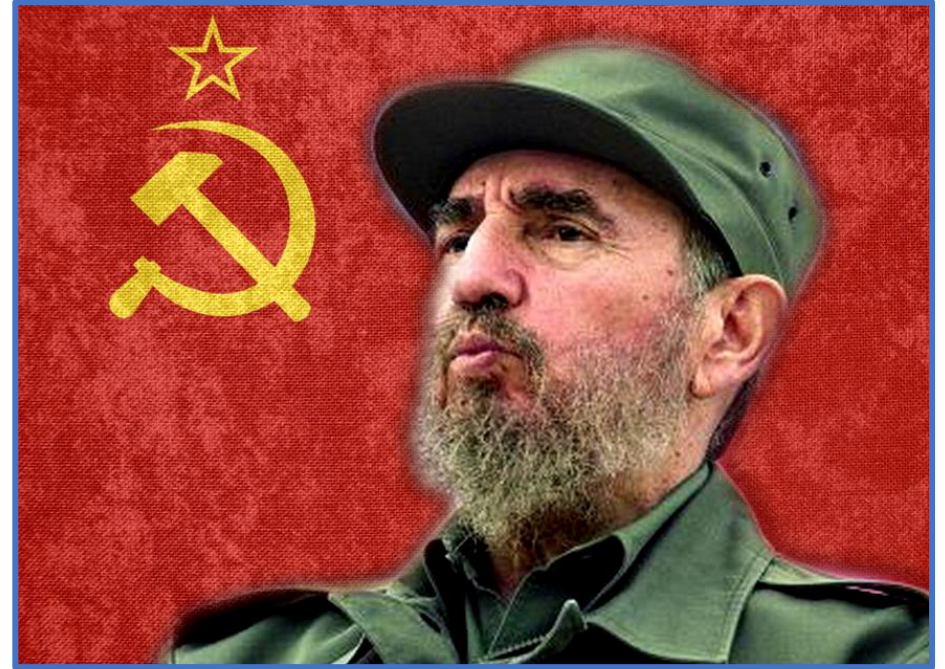
Cuba 1959 - 1962

The emergence of a communist government in Cuba heightens Cold War tensions -- and for several terrifying days brings the world to the brink of nuclear war.

Cuba is only 90 miles from the United States, closer than San Diego to Los Angeles. Castro is still in power in Cuba and in the years since he took power, thousands have fled Cuba for the United States to escape Communism (including Castro's own sister).

Castro claims that he does not want the United States to have influence in Cuba. He hates American Capitalism. Yet, during the Cold War, he allowed the Soviet Union to use Cuba as a base and he was little more than a Communist puppet.

Today, without the Soviet Union to back him, he is little more than a joke on the world scene, except to the people of Cuba



- ____ 1. Castro is a ____
 - a. Capitalist
 - b. Communist
 - c. National Socialist
 - d. Libertarian

- ____ 2. Why is Cuba important to the United States and why was it a threat during the Cold War?
 - a. Cuba has a large amount of natural resources and wealth
 - b. Cuba has an army that rivals the U.S. Army and is close enough to attack the U.S.
 - c. It is only 90 miles from the U.S. and a Communist client of the Soviet Union
 - d. All of these are true

REVOLUCION

Throughout the 1940s and '50s, the Caribbean island of Cuba had many resorts and hotels and was a playground for the United States. Americans invested a great deal of money in Cuba so some Cuban land and industry was owned or controlled by Americans.

Fidel Castro organized guerrilla forces and fought against the dictatorship of Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista. Many Americans supported Castro and sent him money and supplies.

Revolutionary forces headed by Fidel Castro entered Havana in January 1959. Castro declared that he was a Communist and began to seize American property in Cuba.

More than 500 people were tried and executed in a show trial in the Havana Sports Arena. After appearing before the revolutionary judges the people were executed on the spot. Thousands fled to exile in the United States. But to many Cubans, Castro was a hero.

Many Americans, who had supported Castro as the "Robin Hood" of Cuba, felt betrayed when he announced he was a communist.



3. Why did many Americans feel betrayed by Castro?
 - a. He did not announce to the Americans that he was a Communist until after he took power.
 - b. He was a supporter of Batista, the dictator of Cuba
 - c. He owned a great deal of land and industry in Cuba
 - d. He announced to the Americans that he was a Communist before he took power but Americans did not believe him.
4. Who were tried and executed by the Castro Communists in the Havana Sports Arena?
 - a. People thought to be pro-Batista and anti-Castro
 - b. Cuban Communists
 - c. People thought to be anti-Castro Communists.
 - d. Cuban revolutionaries
5. Why did many Americans go to Cuba in the 1940's and 1950's?
 - a. It was a Communist resort island
 - b. Castro was the Robin Hood of Cuba and Americans liked Robin Hood
 - c. The Castro government welcomed Americans
 - d. It was a vacation resort with many hotels, casinos, and beaches

NATIONALIZATION

The United States government and President Eisenhower was now aware that Castro was a Communist and was transforming Cuba into a Soviet satellite. Castro's new government nationalized millions of acres of Cuban land previously held by American companies and distributed it to the people. Castro flew to New York to speak at the United Nations. U.S. President Eisenhower would not meet with him. But Soviet leader Khrushchev was delighted to embrace a new revolutionary and offered Cuba economic assistance because he felt that Cuba, 90 miles from the U.S. could be useful in the Cold War.

Cuba decided to purchase oil from the U.S.S.R., but U.S. companies refused to refine it. Castro then nationalized the U.S.-owned refineries and other industries in Cuba. Washington retaliated with a complete trade embargo against Cuba. (A trade embargo means that a country will not buy or sell anything from another country.) It also launched the first of several CIA campaigns to topple Castro's regime.



6. Why did Khrushchev embrace Castro?

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Khrushchev thought Cuba could be useful to the Soviets in the Cold War | c. Relations between the U.S. and Cuba were strained |
| b. Castro was a fellow communist | d. All of these |

7. What was the embargo imposed against Cuba by the U.S.?

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Cuba refused to buy from or sell anything to the U.S. | c. Cuba refused to trade with the U.S. |
| b. The U.S. refused to trade with Cuba. | d. The U.S. refused to trade with the Soviet Union but would trade with Cuba |



BAY OF PIGS

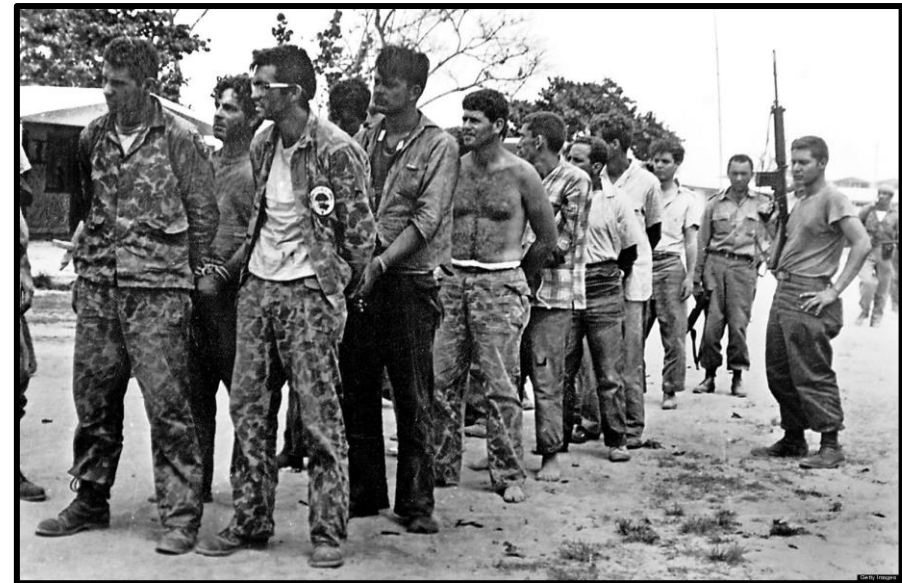
A plan to overthrow Castro was presented to the new U.S. president, John F. Kennedy, soon after his inauguration in 1961. CIA agents had been secretly training Cuban exiles (anti-Castro Cubans) to invade their homeland. They thought the Cuban people would welcome such an invasion and rise up to overthrow Castro. Kennedy agreed to the invasion plan -- but demanded crucial changes to hide U.S. involvement.

On April 15, 1961, six U.S. bombers disguised as Cuban aircraft took off from Nicaragua and attacked Cuban airfields -- but caused only minimal damage. The next day, a CIA-trained force of 1,500 guerrillas arrived at the Bay of Pigs, 125 miles south of Havana. But their plans soon turned into disaster.

Kennedy, now faced with international condemnation for the bombing, canceled additional air support for the invasion. Castro's remaining air force quickly destroyed ships carrying vital ammunition supplies for the invaders. Without American air support or supply, the invasion force was quickly outnumbered and outmaneuvered. All of the invaders were captured or dead within 72 hours.



8. Who was President of the U.S. during the Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion. He approved the invasion.
 - a. Dwight Eisenhower
 - b. John Kennedy
 - c. Lyndon Johnson
 - d. Harry Truman
9. Why did the Bay of Pigs invasion fail?
 - a. the U.S. did not provide air support for the anti-Castro forces, as promised
 - b. the people did not revolt against Castro as expected
10. The people who did the fighting at the Bay of Pigs were Cuban exiles. What is a Cuban exile?
 - a. A Cuban, loyal to Castro
 - b. A Cuban who is pro-Castro but anti-U.S.
 - c. An anti-Castro Cuban living in Cuba
 - d. An anti-Castro Cuban who left Cuba after Castro took power.
11. The Bay of Pigs invasion made President Kennedy look _____ and Fidel Castro look _____.
 - a. weak - strong
 - b. strong - weak
 - c. strong - strong
 - d. weak - weak



MISSILE CRISIS

The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion did not keep the United States from plotting new plans to get rid of Castro -- even assassination was carefully weighed. Cuba, meanwhile, looked to Moscow for military support.

President Kennedy had allowed the Soviets to build the Berlin Wall so Nikita Khrushchev did not respect Kennedy. Khrushchev offered to deploy Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba and after initial resistance, Castro accepted the missiles. By July 1962, the CIA had noticed an increase in Soviet ships heading for Cuba. By mid-October, U-2 spy planes flying over Cuba brought back pictures of ballistic missile sites.

With nuclear warheads less than 100 miles from the United States, the Soviets had the ability to strike any U.S. city without warning. Kennedy formed a special inner cabinet of advisers -- the Executive Committee of the National Security Council, or ExCom -- to weigh the options. Under consideration: a military invasion to topple Castro and "surgical air strikes" against the missiles bases. But taking either step without warning risked turning world opinion against the United States.

Another solution was devised: The U.S. Navy would stop and search all ships heading for Cuba. Washington called it a "quarantine." The Kennedy administration did not know how the Soviets would react if Americans tried to stop and search Soviet ships. It could mean war.

12. Why were Soviet missiles in Cuba a threat to the U.S.

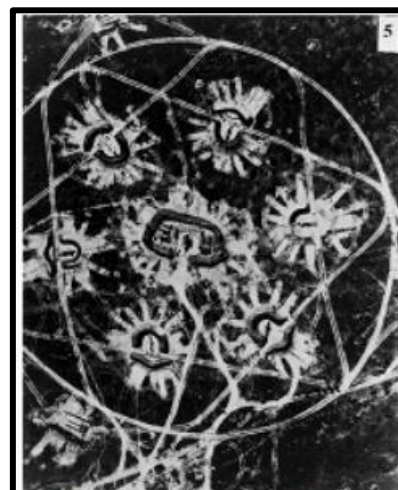
- | | |
|---|--|
| a. The missiles in Cuba could strike almost any city in the United States | c. The missiles were not a threat because the U.S. could trust Cuba |
| b. If one of the missiles blew up by mistake it could destroy Florida | d. The missiles were not a threat because the U.S. could trust the Soviets |

13. How did the U.S. know the Soviets were building offensive missile sites in Cuba?

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Castro bragged about the sites to the world press | c. The U.S. was conducting U2 flights over Cuba |
| b. Khrushchev told the U.S. as a warning | d. Cuban spies were reporting the sites to the CIA |



**U2 Spy plane
Took photographs that warned the U.S.**



**U2 Photograph showing
Soviet Missile sites in Cuba**

AT THE BRINK

On October 22, President Kennedy told the world about the discovery of Soviet missiles in Cuba and announced that a blockade was in force against all ships bound for Cuba. Kennedy demanded the removal of the missiles from Cuba.

For several days the world held its breath as the United States and Soviet Union appeared to be moving toward nuclear war. Washington took its case to the United Nations and prepared for air strikes and a massive invasion of Cuba.

Havana announced a "combat alarm" -- more than a quarter-million Cubans stood ready to repel a U.S. invasion. Soviet forces on the island were equipped with nuclear-tipped tactical missiles, ready to answer any invader.

In the United States, a wave of panic buying swept across the country as people tried to prepare for a possible nuclear holocaust. And though Soviet leaders tried to keep the crisis from their people, the news was leaking out, raising fears. During and after the crisis many people had bomb shelters built in their yards and basements.

The U.S. and the Soviets were headed for a show down. Soviet ships were heading for Cuba and Kennedy said he would not let them through. If they tried to run the blockade there would be war. The world held its breath.



Kennedy Advisors - What to do?



*U.S. Planes Track Soviet Ships
If they try to run the U.S. naval blockade
there will be war between the Soviets and
the U.S.*

14. The greatest danger of the Cuban Missile was
 - a. Loss of trade between the U.S. and Cuba
 - b. Russia might invade Cuba
 - c. Communism might spread to the U.S.
 - d. Nuclear war might break out between the U.S. and the Soviet Union

15. Which nations were ready for war in the Cuban Missile Crisis?
 - a. The U.S., Soviets and Cuba
 - b. The U.S. and Soviets
 - c. The Soviets and Cuba
 - d. The Cubans and the U.S.

16. How did the American people react to the Cuban Missile Crisis?
 - a. Wild panic resulting in looting and hysteria in both countries.
 - b. Mild panic as people worried and stocked up on food and water.
 - c. Americans were not worried.
 - d. Americans decided they would rather be Red than Dead. (surrender to communism)

A WAY OUT

On October 26, with tensions increasing, Kennedy received an offer from Khrushchev. The Soviet leader offered to withdraw his missiles from Cuba -- if the United States promised never to invade the island. The next morning, Khrushchev added another condition: the United States was to remove all its missiles from Turkey.

As Kennedy considered the options, the crisis escalated again -- when a Soviet-led Cuban missile battery shot down a U-2 spy plane. The Pentagon was prepared to bomb the missile site, as contingency plans required -- but Kennedy ordered that no action be taken. He wanted time to deal with Khrushchev.

The president sent his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, to meet with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin. They struck a deal: Soviet missiles would be removed from Cuba in return for the unpublicized removal of missiles from Turkey. On Sunday October 28, Khrushchev announced the withdrawal of the Soviet missiles from Cuba. Under close American surveillance, Soviet ships took the missiles back home.

The crisis was over, but both sides were well aware how close they had come to nuclear annihilation.



17. Khrushchev agreed to remove Soviet missiles from Cuba if the U.S.
 - a. removed its missiles from Turkey
 - b. promised not to invade Cuba
 - c. promised not to invade Turkey
 - d. promised not to invade Cuba and removed its missiles from Turkey
18. President Kennedy may have seemed weak at the beginning of the Cuban Missile Crisis but by its end he showed that he was
 - a. decisive
 - b. diplomatic
 - c. strong
 - d. all of these
19. How many nuclear weapons were used during the Cuban Missile Crisis?
 - a. one
 - b. two
 - c. three
 - d. none

Phoenix Weather
The weather today is
partly cloudy with
a high of 75 and a low
of 55. Wind from the
west at 10 to 15 mph.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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The Republic is a member of the
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Phoenix, Arizona, Tuesday, October 23, 1962

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U.S. BLOCKADES CUBA, TELLS RUSS 'LAY OFF'

**Will Sink
Ships That
Won't Halt**

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The United States is ready to sink any Soviet ship that does not halt its voyage to Cuba, President Kennedy said today.

**President's Cuba
Stand Far-Reaching**

By MICHAEL PERMAN
Special Staff Writer
WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Kennedy's stand on Cuba is the most far-reaching in his career, and it is a direct challenge to the Soviet Union, officials here said today.

**Southeast
Gears To
War Pace**

MIAMI, Fla. (UPI)—Military leaders in the Southeast are gearing up for a possible war with the Soviet Union, officials here said today.



**President Acts
Island's A-Missile
Build-Up Cited**

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Kennedy today ordered a U.S. "quarantine" blockade of Cuba, saying it was the Soviet Union's responsibility to remove the missiles from the island.

Kennedy's action in a 2,000-mile-long quarantine zone off the southern coast of Cuba is the most serious step the United States has taken since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

Islands involved in the blockade are the two largest, and they are the only ones in the Caribbean that have a large population.

That all blockade will begin at 11 a.m. today.

Islands, and the United States will be in a position to enforce the blockade by Oct. 24, officials here said today.

Specific instructions on the blockade will be issued by the President's executive order.

U.S. Acts To Back Speech
The United States will back the speech of the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, who is expected to visit the United States today.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
INTEREST AND ATTENTION

