

**Forum:** The Historical Security Council

**Issue:** The Cuban Missile Crisis

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## Introduction

The Cuban Missile Crisis, a 35-day political and military confrontation between the United States of American (USA) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, 1962, was the culmination of the political tension created by the Cold War and the Missile and Space Race. It revolves around the placement of nuclear weaponry, particularly with the placements of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBM) and partially Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (IMB) in Turkey and Italy by the USA and in Cuba by the USSR. This report will provide a large overview of the cold war, which is necessary for an accurate solution to the problem

## Definition of Key Terms

### Long Range Strategic Bombers; (WW2-Present, Nuclear Delivery System)

Long Range Strategic Bombers (Strategic Bombers) were originally developed during the Second World War for the British and American doctrine of Strategic Bombing, an ideology of air warfare based on the destruction of enemy means of production and infrastructure, such as factories and roads. Following the development of the nuclear bomb by the USA and the USSR, the USA massively increased strategic bomber production. The bomber produced was the B-52 Stratofortress, which could reach practically any major Soviet city. The United States Air Force (USAF) had a peak possession of around 2500 strategic bombers. The alleged mass production and usage of strategic bombers by the USSR was largely a miscalculation by the CIA and USAF.

### Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD); (1950s-Present, Concept)

Mutually Assured Destruction was a fundamental theory which kept the late ‘Cold’ War from getting ‘hot’. Initially, the USA and USSR, the last remaining superpowers following the collapse of Nazi Germany in the second world war, had no means of striking each other at great speeds. The best weapons at the time were strategic bombers, which were not as long ranged as they came to be 1950s and 1960s. However, the improvement of such bombers led to the ability for mass-scale destruction within a few hours of war declaration. One thing this meant was that if either nation used nuclear weapons on the other, there will be an immediate exchange of nuclear explosive, which would result in the complete ruin, or destruction, of both sides. Thus, neither side attempted to use nuclear weapons during

the cold war. The policy becomes even more significant with the development of nuclear-capable long-range missiles, which allowed direct retaliation within minutes

### **SRBM, MRBM, IRBM, ICBM, SLBM; (1950s-Present, Nuclear Delivery System)**

The usage of missiles began with the A-4 (Aggregat-4), better known as the V-2, which were deployed by Nazi Germany during the second world war. The further development of missiles led to the creation of several categories of missiles. At the time, the classifications are as such (ordered by range): Short-Ranged Ballistic Missile (SRBM), Medium-Ranged Ballistic Missile (MRBM), Intermediate-Ranged Ballistic Missile (IRBM), and the IBM. The Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile varied in range, with some as SRBMs while others were MRBMs. However, all could be launched from a nuclear capable submarine, usually when the submarine was still submerged. These missiles, when fitted with nuclear warheads, were capable of mass scale destruction of an entire nation within a few short minutes. Such weapons were the primary concern throughout the cold war. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, both Soviet and American missile forces were deployed near the other's borders, which caused great alarm. The exact context and deployment of these weapons are explained in the “Missile Race” section.

## **Background**

The Cuban Missile Crisis arose due to escalating tensions caused by the Cold War. Its history, however, must be understood before any accurate attempts at resolving the crisis can be made. This is because of the complicated geopolitical and technological situation of the time. The background section will be ordered as follows. First, the history of the cold war is discussed, with a summary of the situation, focusing on the main events which occurred. Then, the report will discuss the Soviet nuclear development efforts, the alleged bomber gap and US aerial surveillance, Soviet and US developments of missile equipment, the missile gap and consequently the Missile Race, the Space Race, and finally the events leading up to and following the Cuban Missile Crisis.

### **The early Cold War**

Following the second world war, only two superpowers remained. The United States of America, isolated by two great oceans, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which sat right in the middle of the Old World, surrounded by the allies of the USA. With the demonstration of power in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the USA, the USSR realized that it needed its own nuclear bomb, and fast. Soviet spies in the USA and the UK

### **Soviet nuclear bomb development**

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### ***Strategic Bombers: the US response to the Soviet Nuclear Weapons***

The United States had a large stockpile of strategic bombers at the time from their doctrine of strategic bombing and destruction. However, such bombers were incapable of striking deep inside soviet territory with nuclear bombs equipped. Meanwhile, the Soviets did not have any capabilities to bomb the United States either. As such, both nations began developing new strategic weapons. While there were multiple flaws in the US strategic bombers, the US Air Chiefs held great confidence in their strategic bombers due to the bombers' involvement in ending the second world war. An improved bomber, which is still in service to this day, was designed, and was named the B-52 Stratofortress. The B-52 was nuclear capable, meaning it could survive after dropping a nuclear bomber, and also had the range to allow America and its allies to strike anywhere into Soviet land. Production of the B-52 was accelerated greatly due to American fears of a new Russian bomber, of which there were only 40, though the CIA predicted an enormous 600 within four years. The new bomber would rival the B-52, and would cause the balance of power to shift dramatically. However, the president at the time, Eisenhower, was unconvinced, and commanded the US intelligence agencies develop and utilize a new sky plane to locate Russian aircraft. It was also supported by usage of the CORONA satellites, which will be explained in more detail in the “Space Race” section.

### ***U2 Spyplane on the Bomber gap***

The U2 spyplane campaign was ordered by Eisenhower, who wanted reliable data on the Bomber Gap. The U2 is still under operation to this day, although many upgrade packages have been fitted to keep it modern, and operated as an intelligence vehicle during the cold war. It was capable of outrunning any Soviet fighter at the time and could fly high enough and far enough to reliably take pictures over all of the Soviet Union. Considered a great embarrassment to the Soviets, the plane had continuous operations over the Union until the 70s and 80s when it was replaced with the SR-71 and was untouchable for over three decades despite the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) knowing about its existence and its missions. The U2 provided much intelligence information to the USAF, and soon disproved the existence of the bomber gap. By then, however, the United States has already produced over 1000 nuclear-capable bombers more than the Soviet Union

### ***The Missile Race***

#### ***Operations Paperclip and Soviet Equivalent***

With the Second World War in Europe drawing to a close, many Nazi German scientists attempted to evade capture by the Soviets by surrendering to the US. The US government and the OSS, the predecessor to the CIA, began operation Paperclip in an effort to acquire German technologies and scientists. This was because the German scientific and technological advances during the war far exceeded any other powers. Acquisition of such technologies would allow the US to hold an advantage against the Soviets, who were threatening European hegemony.

### **Soviet A-4 Inheritance**

Following the end of the second world war, the Soviet Union acquired a large number of German technologies and advanced facilities. This included the primary Luftwaffe research base, as well as nearly the entire German rocket stock. The German V-2, which will be termed the A-4 (Aggregat-4), was the basis of both Soviet and US missile development. The Soviet Union acquired over 500 of such rockets, which they reverse engineered and improved. On the other hand, the US did not acquire as many, and relied on the captured German engineers to rebuild their stock. The Soviets used the A-4 to develop further rocket technologies and began researching Medium-range ballistic missiles (MRBMs) and Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

### **Soviet ICBM development (1954-7)**

The USSR focused on developing ICBMs on account of their incapability to utilize their bomber fleet. The CIA quickly discovered Soviet rocket development plans, and planes were sent to investigate. It was found that the USSR will soon have the capability to directly hit US soil using such weapons within a few years. Unfortunately, this was a major misconception. The Soviet Union faced major reheat issues. As ICBMs typically fly in space, their velocity is not limited by drag. Additionally, to achieve longer ranges and shorter flight times, such missiles need to move at speeds up to several kilometers per second. As one may expect, reentering the atmosphere at such velocities would cause massive friction and other phenomenon which results in high heating. This heating is in fact so powerful, practically all useful payloads will be melted and destroyed.

### **The Missile Gap and US development of ICBMs**

Due to CIA incompetence, the US military believed that the Soviet Union had far more ICBMs than they really had. This was similar to the bomber gap. The resulting chaos from the missile gap resulted in the US restarting ICBM development. Development was slow, but the US soon completed construction of their new Minuteman ICBMs. As fears of Soviet dominance was still strong, the US government began mass producing such rockets. Additionally, IRBMs and MRBMs were built through the Titan and Atlas programs.

### **U2 Spyplane crash and subsequent political crisis**

In the year before the Cuban Missile Crisis, the United States continued U2 operations. By then, it was already known that the U2 plane was too inadequate to avoid targeting and destruction. However, the US government and intelligence community refused to develop new aircraft on account of both doubts of Soviet capability and a lack of immediate need. However, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1960, a U2 mission over the Soviet Union resulted in catastrophe. A SAM missile hit the U2 spyplane, and the damage to the plane and injury to the pilot, Gary Powers, rendered Powers incapable of swallowing the suicide pills and eventually led to him landing. This, unfortunately, resulted in him being captured and interrogated. The following political catastrophe greatly damaged US reputation. No other major developments occurred before the crisis.

## Cuban Missile Crisis

### US deploys PGM-19 Jupiter IRBMs and PGM-11 Redstone SRBMs in Turkey and Italy

Generally, it can be said that the entire Cuban Missile Crisis originated from the US deciding to put nuclear missiles in Turkey and Italy. By that time, the United States had acquired both the PGM-11 Redstone SRBM, which has a maximum range of 323.5 kilometers, and the PGM-19 Jupiter MRBM. The PGM-11 was primarily meant for as a tactical, or theatre-level, missile, meaning it supports ground forces in combat by directly striking at enemy troop positions instead of bombing enemy factories. The position of PGM-11 Redstone SRBMs was not particularly irksome for the Soviet government as such missiles would have little to no use when fitted with nuclear warheads as the radiation produced would only serve to hinder NATO forces in the event of an invasion. However, the PGM-19 was very troublesome due to its 2,700 kilometer maximum range. Based near the port of Izmir, the missile could hit every major city in the entirety of the Warsaw Pact nations, with the exception of Vladivostok in the Far East, though that was also under threat by nuclear bombers based in Japan and missiles in Alaska. A total of 15 PGM-19s were based in Turkey, while another 30 were based in Italy. These 45 bombs would be capable of destroying over 75% of the Soviet population, considering the lack of any practical form of missile interception system.

### USSR deploys R-12 Dvina MRBMs and R-14 Chusovaya IRBMs in Cuba

Understandably, the Soviets were extremely concerned by the American capability of mass destruction within the USSR and its allies. In response, the Soviet government began plans to relocate their stockpile of R-12 MRBMs and R-14 IRBMs to an ally in the Americas. While they were initially reluctant, the Cuban government was convinced to host weapons. From Cuba, such weapons could hit practically any location in the United States. For the first time, the Soviet Union had the capability to hit targets on US soil without the need for nuclear bombers or ICBMs. The amount of missiles were low, at around 6-8 R-12 MRBMs placed in Cuba. R-14 IRBMs, while placed in Cuba, did not have civilian centers on priority target. Instead, American nuclear missile bays and nuclear submarine bases were of primary interest.

### US protest over placement

The United States protested the placement of the Soviet missiles in Cuba. However, they could not lodge any public complaints in the UN as they recognized their own placement of missiles near the borders of the USSR would come onto question. By then, the US has had a reputation for hypocrisy, particularly when dealing with the Soviet Union, which they did not want to be made worse. After the first round of deliberation, the United States initiated a “quarantine” over ships going into Cuba, avoiding war by not using “blockade” to term their decision. With tensions rising, the situation between the United States and the Soviet Union inch closer to nuclear war.

## Major Parties Involved

### The United States of America

The United States of America was one of the two surviving superpowers following the second world war. Its influence over Europe and the rest of the world was divided with the Soviet Union, and was, with the USSR, one of the two nations involved in the Cuban Missile crisis. As written above, the US deployed multiple IRBMs and MRBMs into Turkey and Italy, which caused great Soviet concern, particularly because those missile could hit any location in the USSR within an hour. The decision to place these missiles resulted in the Soviet government seeking their own launch bases which can threaten the United States. This led to the Soviet government choosing to place missile bases in Cuba, starting the crisis. The United States was, at the time, led by its youngest president, John F. Kennedy. Kennedy was an advocate of the “containment” strategy which many others endorsed. However, as the cold war progressed, he considered cooperating with Khrushev on some particular projects, including a planned US-USSR joint moon landing, though none of these proposals made it through congress, despite support from the Union. Any possibly threatening decision made by the United States would be detrimental to its fragile relations with the USSR and may result in a nuclear war. This is to be avoided at all cost. The US favors negotiation through the crisis, though military commanders were planning for an invasion of the Soviet Union.

### Soviet Union

The Soviet Union is the second major superpower that emerged from the second world war. Stuck in the middle of Eurasia, the Soviet Union is vulnerable to NATO. This is unlike the US, which has not, before the crisis, faced any threats from the two American continents. In the few months prior to the Crisis, the Soviet Union located two batteries of US missiles placed in Turkey and Italy. Following some Cuban insurrection in which they directly removed Pro-Soviet elements from their government, the Soviet Union forcibly positioned anti-aircraft batteries and infantry units inside Cuba. Following this, the USSR transferred a small amount of MRBMs and IRBMs, resulting in the start of the Crisis. At the time, Khruschev knew the Soviet Union would have no chance in a fight with the United States. With the large majority of their nuclear weapons stuck within Soviet land, any attempt at aggression may lead to a preemptive US missile strike, something which may prove disastrous as US nuclear submarines and IRBMs will be able to hit the Soviet mainland before a Soviet counterattack could be made. The favored solution is through negotiation, with the hoped-for outcome being a removal of US missiles from Turkey, Italy, and Britain in response for a removal of Soviet missiles and standard military from Cuba.

### Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
May 2, 1945	Rocket scientist Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr Von Braun and his team of 2000 or so German rocket scientists surrendered to the US Army. Von Braun would go on to lead the design of the Saturn V rocket which brought the first humans to the moon, and become a world-renowned scientist often granted the appellation of “the father of rocketry”. He also worked on the development of the Redstone IRBM and Jupiter MRBM, both of which were placed in Italy and Turkey prior to the Crisis. This

	placement of nuclear-capable weapons was one of the leading causes of the decision to place nuclear missiles in Cuba.
<b>August 29, 1949</b>	Soviet Union successfully tests first nuclear bomb. Nuclear Cold War begins
<b>July 26, 1953</b>	The 26th of July Movement, whereby a Cuban revolutionary organization, led by Fidel Castro, began their attempt to overthrow the current dictator, Fulgencio Batista.
<b>August 2, 1955</b>	The Space Race begins. In addition to beginning a new era of space exploration, the United States and the Soviet Union were able to show off their technological advances.
<b>October 4, 1957</b>	The Soviets launched Sputnik 1, the first-ever artificial earth satellite. This led to the Sputnik Crisis, which was a period in time whereby the US, along with many other Western nations feared how much the Soviet's technology was advancing. This initiated the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Act (NASA).
<b>January 1, 1959</b>	Fidel Castro successful overthrew Fulgencio Batista from office, after an armed revolted from 1953 to 1959.
<b>October 3, 1965</b>	The Communist Party of Cuba was officially founded as the sole ruling authoritarian party after the Cuban Revolution.
<b>April 17-20, 1961</b>	Bay of Pigs, whereby the US, through the CIA, attempted to remove Fidel Castro and overthrow Cuba's communist government. All the attackers were either killed or apprehended, and the mission ended in failure. This led to Cuba seeking out help from the Soviet Union.
<b>October 16, 1962</b>	The United States called together an emergency meeting, as President John F. Kennedy was made aware through photographs. that nuclear missiles were being constructed underneath Cuba.
<b>October 22, 1962</b>	JFK announced to the public the threat of the missiles and announces that the United States navy will intercept and prevent any shipments to Cuba, calling it a 'quarantine', whilst demanding a withdrawal of the Soviet missiles. This was considered an act of war.
<b>October 27, 1962</b>  (Keep in mind that delegates will be debating as if anything)	An American spy plane, piloted by Maj. Rudolf Anderson, was shot down and killed by a Soviet missile.  A Soviet submarine containing nuclear weapons was shot by a US Navy vessel which was shot with the intention of signaling for the submarine to come up. The submarine was unable to communicate with the surface however and began to prepare the

during and past this day hasn't happened yet)	<p>nuclear torpedo for launch, as they thought the war had already begun. In order to launch the missile, all 3 commanders onboard had to agree to it. Thankfully, Second in Command Vasili Arkhipov vetoed the decision.</p> <p>American Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Soviet ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin met in Washington DC, in secret, and negotiated the following: The Soviets would withdraw from Cuba (under UN watch), and the US would remove their missiles from Italy and Turkey, and promise to never invade Cuba. The US agreed, as long as their removal of missiles would be kept secret.</p>
<b>October 28, 1962</b>	Khrushchev writes a letter to the US, announcing the removal of the Soviet missiles from Cuba.

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

- **United Nations Security Council**
  - The following meetings were conducted by the Security Council on the topic of complaints by Cuba, the Soviet Union, and the United States:
    - S/PV.1022 on the 23rd of October
    - S/PV.1023 on the 24th of October
    - S/PV.1024 on the 24th of October
    - S/PV.1025 on the 25th of October
- **Secret negotiations**
  - John A. Scali (ABC News) and Alexander Feklisov (KGB Chief) had lunch in October 26th, whereby Feklisov asked Scali if the US would consider diplomatic solutions. The suggestion was that the Soviet Union would remove weapons, Cuba would publicly declare that they would never accept said weapons ever again, and the US would not invade Cuba. In the response, the US passed a message via the Brazilian government to Castro, stating that the US would most likely not invade if the missiles were to be removed.
- **Responses considered by the United States**
  - Until new intelligence was received, the United States had no plan for nuclear missiles. Upon being given the new information, The Executive Committee of the National Security Council discussed a few possible responses, including:
    - Using diplomatic pressure on the Soviets
    - Negotiating with Fidel Castro himself
    - Or, alternatively, fully invading Cuba to overthrow Castro
    - Using the US Air Force to invade the attack missile sites and/or using the US Navy to block and missiles from arriving to Cuba

- Simply doing nothing.
- President Kennedy had previously promised American citizens that "if Cuba should possess a capacity to carry out offensive actions against the United States... the United States would act."

## Possible Solutions

*Reminder that delegates will be delegating as if the crisis has just begun.*

### Bay of Pigs 2.0:

Similar to the Bay of Pigs (1961), The United States would send out another invasion, to apprehend the missiles currently in Cuba. This is risky, however, considering the failure of the first Bay of Pigs. The Soviets and Cubans may see this as even more of a threat. The consequences of any mistakes will also be incredibly disastrous, most likely ending in extreme loss of human life from both sides, and worst-case scenario, kickstarting a nuclear war. Similar to the aftermath of the first Bay of Pigs, a failed mission will both greatly embarrass President Kennedy and his administration. It also served as a warning to Cuba about the possibility of US intervention.

### Financial incentives from the US to Cuba.

This is a more peaceful option, using economic leverage. Cuba may drop their ties with the Soviet Union and ask for the removal of nuclear weapons. Additionally, this is rather precarious, as it relies on a lot of carefully crafted agreements from both sides.

### United Nations as a moderator:

This would involve an emergency United Nations meeting with all member states involved. Additionally, a third-party member may act as a moderator, or host, for the meeting. Using the UN is another 'peaceful' option to solving the conflict. However, considering the time constraints and dire emergency, this solution may be difficult.

### Both sides withdraw weapons:

The Soviet Union and the United States both agree to withdraw any control, weaponry, or embargos on Cuba. This option would be mutually beneficial and seems somewhat plausible. However, both sides will need confirmation of removal, on top of a binding and official agreement. Again, a third party could be used, either the United Nations or another third-party state.

### Other talking forums:

One of the main reasons why the UN did not manage to do anything throughout the entire Cold War was due to the fact that both the United States and the Soviet Union had a veto power. This resulted in the Security Council to be in a stalemate, making any conversation or solution ineffective. Although unlikely, delegates can discuss another way to debate over solutions, without either of the superpowers immediately issuing a veto threat. These include having other temporary forums, peace talks overseen by other members of the United Nations Security Council, and treaty proposals. (However, United Nations Charter cannot be amended.)

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