

The cuban missile crisis



The Cuban Missile Crisis happened for a couple of reasons. The United States was extremely unhappy with the new President of Cuba, Fidel Castro, and his new policies. The U.

S. was on the verge of waging a war against Cuba. The United States had placed an embargo on all exports to Cuba, except for food and medicine, and by January of 1961 the United States had broken all diplomatic ties with Cuba. By April of 1961, the CIA's plan to invade Cuba was finalized during the U. S. Bay of the Pigs. The outcome of the invasion was not what the United States hoped and tension between the U. S.

and Cuba increased. The incidents that occurred between the U. S. and Cuba prior to 1962 were extremely crucial to the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union were in the midst of the cold war, battling for arms control.

The U. S. had already positioned the intermediate range ballistic missile, IRBM, Jupiter, in Turkey.

During one of President Kennedy's 1960 campaign, it was revealed that the U. S. was a head in the arms race. The Soviet's only had approximately 50 missiles that could hit the U.

S, while the U. S. had over 500 missiles positioned for the Soviet Union. The Soviet's were also believed that the U. S. was planning to build up its strategic forces for a possible strike at the Soviet Union.

Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, knew about the tension between Cuba and the U. S. and felt that the tension could be used to convince Castro that

it would be in his interest to allow the Soviet[™]s to position their IRBMs to Cuba. By the beginning of 1962, Khrushchev and Castro had arranged for several missile sites to be built in Cuba. It was during the end of the summer of 1962 that the U.

S. discovered that the missiles were being placed in Cuba. When the Soviet[™]s were confronted about the missiles being in Cuba, they claimed they were there for defensive purposes. The U. S. felt that there were too many there and that secrecy placing the missiles in Cuba and so close to the U.

S. could only be to for a planned nuclear attack. President Kennedy formed a special committee from the members of his executive cabinet. The committee, which became known as ExComm, was setup for the purpose of handling the Cuban Missile Crisis.

ExComm began to immediately strategize and lay out their options to the crisis. It must have been one of the scariest moments in time. Not to know if WWII was a push of a button away. The committee had only a few options to choose from. An air strike, quarantine Cuba, or do nothing. It was decided that the only real choice was to use a naval blockade against Cuba. The crisis and breathtaking tension lasted for 13 days. Khrushchev told President Kennedy that if he removed the Jupiter missiles from Turkey and would not make any further attempts to invade Cuba, he would remove his missiles from Cuba.

The U. S. won on this one, as President Kennedy had already ordered the removal of the Jupiter missiles from Turkey prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

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