

The Cuban Missile Crisis.

Cuba is only 90 miles away from America. Much of the land in Cuba was owned by American businesses. In 1956 US companies: ran 90% of the phone and electric supply; ran 50% of the railways; ran 40% of all sugar production and owned all the oil refineries.

The Cuban revolution overthrew the pro-American government, led by the corrupt ruler **Batista**. As a result, **Fidel Castro's** new government took over American property. In response America banned the import of Cuban sugar. This threatened to bankrupt the Cuban economy.

Cuba turned to the USSR for help, Premier **Khrushchev** agreed to offer economic aid to Cuba in order to help his new ally industrialise.



Bay of Pigs Invasion



The Bay of Pigs invasion:

The **CIA** had tried and failed to assassinate **Castro** several times. As a result the **CIA** persuaded **President Kennedy** to launch an invasion of Cuba to dislodge **Castro**.

The invasion was a disaster. The **secret** invasion was known by Castro's government before it happened. **Airstrikes missed their targets**. The **Cuban exile army** who invaded at the Bay of Pigs were **forced to surrender**. Kennedy sent in planes, but it was too late.

The Bay of Pigs ended any chance that the USA and Cuba might negotiate a friendly relationship. **Castro declared himself communist**. The **USSR** began to negotiate protection which **placed Soviet nuclear missiles very close to the USA**.

'Thirteen Days'

Kennedy is informed of Khrushchev's plan to place nuclear weapons on Cuba.

A **naval blockade is imposed around Cuba** to prevent further missiles reaching the island. American and Soviet armed forces prepare for war.

Khrushchev proposes a deal to withdraw nuclear weapons from Cuba if the USA agrees never to invade and withdraw nuclear weapons from Turkey. America agrees, but asks that the withdrawal of missiles from Turkey is kept secret.



The Short-term effects of the Cuban Missile Crisis:

1. The 'hotline' June 1963 was a direct communication link between the American President and the Russian Premier.
2. The Limited Test Treaty Ban August 1963. A ban on the testing of nuclear weapons in space, sea and above ground was agreed. However, testing below ground was still permitted.
3. In June 1963 Kennedy made a speech which argued that the Superpowers needed to focus on their 'common interests'. This was the beginning of a policy called detente: a relaxing of tension in the relationship between the USA and the USSR.

The Long-term effect of the Cuban Missile Crisis:

By 1965 the USA and the USSR were on an equal footing in terms of their **nuclear capacity**. This created **stability** because they realised that any nuclear war would destroy both countries. This idea known as the **Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)**, gave both sides an excellent reason for avoiding war.



Source B: From a speech by President Kennedy on 10 June 1963.

- *'Let us direct attention to our common interests [with the Soviet Union] and to the means by which our differences can be resolved. Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future.'*