



Key knowledge:

To understand the main features of the crisis in 1962, and the actions of the main individuals during the crisis events of the USA (inc. Kennedy and Khrushchev, 'hawks vs doves', the secret deal over US missiles in Turkey).

To understand the meaning of détente, and to identify the main short-term consequences. ('hotline', 1963; Test Ban Treaty, 1963; détente), and the main long-term consequences (including the fall of Khrushchev, MAD, France leaving NATO).

- October 1962 – Brought the superpowers on brink of Nuclear War.
- Revolution in Cuba – Fidel Castro new leader (Pro-Communist).
- Castro got rid of all US business, the USA then stopped buying sugar – Cuba's biggest export.
- Soviets swooped in to have an influence close to USA – offered to buy sugar and give Cuba machinery, technology and oil.
- Khrushchev challenged USA here as he had failed in his Berlin challenge – was convinced he could beat the young and inexperienced JFK.
- **Bay of Pigs**, April 1961 – Eisenhower said the CIA would train 1500 Cuban exiles living in USA for an invasion. (These Cubans left when Castro took power from Batista)
- 1100 exiles captured and imprisoned – released after \$53m worth of food and medicines given to Cubans.
- **Failed** because – USA assumed Cubans (in Cuba) would support invasions – they didn't. Castro was very popular – Castro knew the invasion was imminent
- **Outcome** – USA Humiliated, Kennedy determined to resist communism in Americas, Castro's position in Cuba even stronger, Castro pushed further towards Soviet Union, USA appeared as an empire building country, missions to remove Castro.
- **Missile Crisis** – 1961 Cuba became communist. By the end of 1961, Soviets had military equipment in Cuba. Khrushchev worried about US missiles in Turkey and Italy. Khrushchev could now claim he was defending Cuba from US force, he said the missiles were defensive not offensive. U2 plane on 14th October seen the IRBM's. – start of 13 days of hell. (you know the options USA had)
- Hawks Vs. Doves – Both Kennedy's and Khrushchev's advisors were split. Hawks on both sides wanted an aggressive policy – Some US advisors believed Nuclear war was inevitable so US should strike first and fast as they would destroy the Soviets before they could retaliate. The Doves recommended diplomatic strategies (talking)
- Blockade – stopped any Soviet ship getting into Cuba. USA was on high alert with submarines and missiles ready – just in case. Kennedy publicly warned Khrushchev he would stop the ships by force. (you know the timeline of events in 13 days), Robert Kennedy secretly agreed with Khrushchev to remove missiles from Turkey.



Results of the crisis:

Short term:

- Kennedy appeared to have won and Khrushchev had backed down. Many Russians wanted to remove Khrushchev. Nobody knew about Robert Kennedy's deal. Mao of China also criticised him for being weak. Cuban's felt betrayed by Khrushchev.
- Khrushchev saw himself as the winner as he prevented an invasion of Cuba and removal of Turkey missiles – he was sacked in 1964.
- Because of communication being slow by letter, a 'Hotline' was set up between the White House and the Kremlin. (This phone is still tested every hour of every day)
- Partial Test Ban treaty signed in August 1963 – Both USA and Soviets agreed to stop testing nuclear weapons in the atmosphere.
- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty signed in 1968 designed to stop spread of nuclear weapons.
- Because the Arms race nearly led to world destruction, the countries began SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) in 1969 leading to ***détente*** (A reduction in tensions).
- USA sold grain to Soviet Union in 1963 showing this détente was clear

Long Term:

- Soviets were determined never to be 'pushed around' by USA again so caught up with them and by 1965 both countries had equal Nuclear capability – this led to stability based on MAD.
- Some European countries were unhappy with Kennedy because he acted alone in all of this, not asking them. France withdrew from the military side of NATO in 1966. President Charles De Gaulle (of France) decided to develop his own Nuclear weapons.

Key skills for this topic:

- Be able to LINK events (Arms race to Castro, to Bay of Pigs, to blockade, to Cubans becoming Communist etc...
- US Perspectives and Soviet Perspectives
- Know the chronology of the key events from 1961-1963, identify SHORT TERM and LONG TERM Causes / Consequences
- Be able to describe the key features of:
 - Arms Race - Cuban Missile Crisis - Bay of Pigs etc...
- Be able to EXPLAIN the IMPORTANCE of 3 of the key events: – Berlin Crisis 1953-63 – Camp David Summit 1959 – Paris Summit 1960 – Vienna Summit 1961 – Cuban Missile Crisis 1962 etc...