**Cold War**

**Episode 10 - Cuba: 1959-1961.**

**The Cuban missile crisis**, (October 1962), was major confrontation that brought the [United States](https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-United-States) and the [Soviet Union](https://www.britannica.com/place/Soviet-Union) close to war over the presence of Soviet [nuclear-armed](https://www.britannica.com/technology/nuclear-weapon) missiles in [Cuba](https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Cuba).

**Questions**

1.What was America’s interest in Cuba in the 1940s and 1950s?

2.How did Castro’s Revolution affect American interests there?

3.What does it mean to “nationalize” land and industry?

4.How did the USA plan to get rid of Castro?

5.Why did the USA first support and then withdraw support of the Bay of Pigs invasion?

6. Who landed at Bay of Pigs? Where is the bay located?

7. Why did the Bay of Pigs invasion fail?

8.Why did the USSR send missiles to Cuba?

9.Why was the USA surprised to learn about Soviet missiles in Cuba?

10.According to ExComm member Theodore Sorensen, why didn’t ExComm debate why the USSR sent the missiles?

11.What would a first strike from Cuba have destroyed in the USA?

12.Why did Robert Kennedy hesitate to use an air strike against Cuba?

13. Why do you think President Kennedy encouraged his brother, Robert, to meet in secret with Anatoly Dobrynin (Soviet Ambassador)? How did Robert McNamara (US Defence Secretary) justify the need for a US response to this deception?

14. What conclusion did ExComm reach?

15. What happened on October 15th 1961 and what was the Soviet response the following day?

16.What “deals” did Khrushchev and Kennedy offer one another?

17.What compromise was reached between the USA and the USSR?