

THE CUBAN

MISSILE CRISIS



Background to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Discover : the background to the Cuban Missile Crisis **Explore** : the relationship between Cuba and the USSR **Skill** : Knowledge and understanding.

aligned

Cows

U2

UN

botched

sanction

apocalyptic

Cold

existence

Cuban

Soviets

seized

embargo

Pigs

For 13 days in October of 1962, the world teetered on the brink of an _____ nuclear war when Cuba and the Soviet Union faced off with the USA. But how did events in Cuba lead to the escalation of existing _____ War tension ? In 1959 Fidel Castro _____ power after the Cuban revolution. The new Cuban government began taking property owned by Americans in Cuba, nationalised its foreign banks and more worrying for America, _____ itself with the Soviet Union. In response, the USA imposed a trade _____ against Cuba. In January 1961, the USA broke off relations with Cuba entirely before secretly supporting the _____ Brigade's _____ invasion at the Bay of _____. Elsewhere, in 1962 American Jupiter (nuclear) missiles placed in Turkey, within range of the Soviet Union, were made operational. US Senator Ken Keating warned that the _____ were building missile sites in Cuba and urged Kennedy to take action. Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko warned in a _____ speech that an American attack on Cuba would lead to war with the Soviet Union, Soon after, an American _____ spy plane flew over Cuba and took photographs proving the _____ of Soviet missile construction in Cuba.

Text edited from www.cbc.ca.

1: What was the Cold War?

2: Why did Fidel Castro align with the Soviet Union ?

3: Who were the Cuban Brigade?

4: Why was the USA so concerned about Soviet missiles in Cuba?

5: What was the likely outcome of an American attack on Cuba?



Castro and Khrushchev



US Jupiter Missiles



Soviet Missiles

What Happened at the Bay of Pigs?

Discover : what happened at the Bay of Pigs **Explore** : why this happened and the effects **Skill** : source investigation and evaluation.



A

Fidel Castro landed in Cuba in 1956 with 80 rebels, intent on revolution. Ambushed by Batista's (Cuban President) men, they were forced to flee into the mountains. Castro and a few survivors, including his brother Raúl and Che Guevara, started their armed campaign. Cuba had grown more corrupt and unequal under Batista and Castro recruited many people to his cause – especially among the rural poor. Castro won a string of military skirmishes and took control of large swathes of the country. In 1958 he launched a full-scale attack on major towns. Batista fled Cuba, and in January 1959 Castro entered Havana a hero. **BBC History**

B

Fifty years ago, shortly before midnight on 16 April 1961, a group of some 1,500 Cuban exiles trained and financed by the CIA launched an ill-fated invasion of Cuba from the sea in the Bay of Pigs. The plan was to overthrow Fidel Castro and his revolution. Instead, it turned into a humiliating defeat which pushed Cuba firmly into the arms of the Soviet Union and has soured US-Cuban relations to this day. **Havana Museum**

C

The US hatched a plan to topple Castro. In 1961, 1,500 Cuban exiles, trained and financed by the CIA, launched an invasion in the Bay of Pigs. It was an unmitigated disaster. The invaders had hoped to gain local support for their cause but it didn't materialise. Castro took personal charge of the defensive operation and within three days the battle was won. More than 100 of the invaders died in the attack and 1,189 were taken prisoner. Realising the US was now his sworn enemy, Castro forged even closer ties with the Soviet Union. He was determined to stay in power and safeguard the revolution – in May he abolished multiparty elections. **BBC History**.

D

The USA completely underestimated the degree of support for Fidel Castro's revolution inside Cuba and the Bay of Pigs invasion was the first great defeat of Yankee Imperialism in the Latin America. It was supposed to rid the hemisphere of a potential Soviet base, but it pushed Fidel Castro into the waiting arms of the Soviet Union. It was meant to undermine his revolution but it truly helped him to consolidate it. The Bay of Pigs as a perfect failure for the US, which the rest of the world quickly realised was behind the operation.

G



E



F

JFK Library / History

'Oh, I'd say we were a mile and a half, to a half mile from shore. Yeah, when they went onto the beach we were that close. I assumed that we were in support of them. As far as anyone knows, it was the Cubans going ashore. Who else would it be? Anyway you could see artillery hitting the beach. Gray clouds would go up. And the Cubans were running all over the place trying to get up the beach. Their equipment was all on the beach and got shot up. And that transport ship they had out there got hit with an artillery round. There was a big black puff of smoke. A lot of their equipment was on there. I knew it was on there because I was up on the bridge and I heard the officers talking. And our captain said, they won't be able to get their heavy equipment off. See, I could eaves-drop on all this, because that was my station, up there in officers' country, And he was talking to his officers and saying they wouldn't be able to get their heavy equipment off that ship now, whatever their heavy equipment was. So then I thought, "Well, they're getting the shit shot out of 'em, so now the task force will come in and support them." And they didn't. We made two or three passes up and down the beach. One time was real close That's when I saw them, some of them were lying on the beach, and I saw one artillery round come down, and I don't know, maybe it's my imagination. It wasn't as dramatic as you see in the movies, because we were pretty far away from it. But I saw some of them were running in the water, aiming to swim back to their boat maybe. But most of them went up into the hills and you couldn't see than anymore'.

Bill Bader : US NAVY Signalman.

H

How far does source D support C

Point of support / corroboration

P1 :

P2 :

Point not supported / corroborated

P1 :

P2 :

Mostly supports Does not support

How reliable is source H ?

The content (what) is / is not reliable because ..

The provenance (who) is / is not reliable

Mostly reliable Mostly unreliable

Quick Questions

Why did Fidel Castro take over Cuba? (A)

What is the CIA ? (Discuss ?)

What is the message of source F ?

Describe The Bay Of Pigs Invasion

Why :

What :

Effect :

The Cuban Missile Crisis

Free Samples

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Key word builders

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What happened at the Bay of Pigs?

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