

John F Kennedy (1961-1963) and Cuban Missile Crisis

I. JFK & the Cold War

A. In the Cold War, JFK took a strong stand against the Soviet Union:

1. He believed that the USSR had more ICBMs (“_____”) & better _____ technology
2. He wanted a “_____” to fight the Cold War: more ICBMs but also a bigger _____
3. He wanted a “_____ capability” against the USSR, (rather than “mutually assured destruction”)

B. President Kennedy fought the Cold War in other ways:

1. JFK created the _____ in 1961 to send _____ aid & improve U.S. relations with under-developed nations
2. In 1962, JFK committed the U.S. to catch the USSR in the _____ by landing a man on the _____ by the end of the decade; U.S. landed on the moon in _____

C. The Berlin Crisis, 1961:

1. In JFK’s first year in office, Soviet leader Khrushchev threatened to cut off access to _____
2. JFK vowed to _____ access to West Berlin
3. Rather than blockade the city, Communist leaders built the _____ in 1961 to keep East Germans out of West Berlin

D. The Bay of Pigs Invasion, 1961

1. In 1959, _____ gained control of _____, seized property, & took aid from Khrushchev in the USSR
 - a. Under Eisenhower, the CIA trained _____ to invade the island & _____ of Castro
 - b. In 1961, JFK authorized the plan, but the _____ invasion _____ after JFK called off air strikes on Cuba
2. JFK went on TV & took _____ for the failure at the Bay of Pigs

E. The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962

1. After the failure at the Bay of Pigs, Soviet leader _____ promised to _____ Cuba from the USA
2. In 1962, U.S. spy planes revealed _____ camps in Cuba
 - a. If assembled, Soviet _____ in Cuba would give the USSR _____ capability on U.S. targets
 - b. JFK warned that he would _____ nuclear missiles in Cuba

How Should JFK Respond? (Positives & Negatives of Each Option)	
1. Air Strikes on Cuba	2. Invasion of Cuba
3. Diplomacy	4. Naval Blockade

3. Kennedy announced a _____ (blockade) to keep more missiles out & demanded that the Soviets _____ already in Cuba
4. Soviet ships, escorted by nuclear-equipped _____, soon approached the quarantine line & the world waited for _____
5. The standoff ended when a deal was reached:
 - a. Soviet ships _____ at the last minute & Khrushchev _____ its missiles from Cuba
 - b. JFK promised that the U.S. would not _____ Cuba & secretly agreed to remove ICBMs from _____
 - c. The crisis ended as a _____ for JFK, but it revealed how close the two sides came to nuclear war