Crisis Calls for Diplomacy:
The Communication Between Kennedy and Khrushchev
That Brought Diplomacy To The Cuban Missile Crisis

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Process Paper

In October 2021, my older sister showed me a Smithsonian Magazine article on Juanita Moody, a Cryptographer during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I was fascinated, not only by Juanita Moody, but the Cuban Missile Crisis. I already knew that I was interested in the Cold War, and this topic seemed perfect for me. I started with the Smithsonian article, but could not find much more information about Juanita Moody. I then switched to the Cuban Missile Crisis. I started at my local library and found a lot of books on both the Cold War and Cuban Missile Crisis. I quickly realized that doing the whole Cuban Missile Crisis would be too large of a topic. I chose to focus on the debate and diplomacy of my topic, which was the letters between Kennedy and Khrushchev.

When researching, I used some online databases, but none of them could tell me anything new. I found a helpful website produced by the JFK Presidential Library. It had an archive of the letters sent between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev during the thirteen days. This helped me understand how important the letters were to defusing the Cuban Missile Crisis. After that, I found newspapers from Chronicling America, which helped me understand the public's opinions of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

I chose to do a paper back when I was still doing Juanita Moody. I knew that my topic was complicated, and would take a lot of words to explain. I tried to complete a timeline of my topic, then realized that I needed a lot more information. After filling in the gaps with assorted secondary sources, I started to type my second draft. I inserted quotes and started editing my paper. After Regionals, I used the judges’ comments to make my paper stronger. After State, I took a step back and revised my historical argument.
My historical argument is that letters between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev led to a diplomatic solution to the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Soviet Union and United States were able to negotiate an agreement that prevented nuclear war, saving potentially millions of lives. The diplomacy between the United States and Soviet Union highlighted the inconvenience of their current communication system, which led to the installation of a direct communication line between the United States and Soviet Union, called the hotline. The hotline brought cooperation to the Cold War.

The Cuban Missile Crisis proved that direct communication was essential in successful diplomacy. It was Khrushchev’s choice to go behind his advisors back and compromise that diffused the Cuban Missile Crisis, and helped a world teetering on the edge of the brink take a step back from nuclear war. However, as seen in recent world events, not all politicians have the same capacity to compromise as Khrushchev. In 2022, the war in Ukraine proved that diplomacy is hard to come by, even with a hotline.
In October of 1962, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) and the United States (U.S.) engaged in the “hottest” moment of the Cold War. After the U.S.S.R. secretly deployed nuclear missiles to Cuba, U.S. President Kennedy responded by sending a letter informing U.S.S.R. Premier Khrushchev of a naval quarantine of Cuba, starting a series of diplomatic communications to ease tensions. These exchanges fostered compromise between Khrushchev and Kennedy, ended the Cuban Missile Crisis and established a direct communication link between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. that became the essential tool to de-escalating subsequent Cold War conflicts. The breakdown of direct communication between Russia and the U.S. since the end of the Cold War escalated tensions, as evidenced by the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine.

A Ticking Time Bomb:

After World War II, the alliance forged to defeat the Axis Powers between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. was shattered. They dove head first into an ideological, economic and political war. Although never fighting directly during the Cold War, they both tried to become superior in nuclear firepower, scientific advancement and economies. By 1948, the U.S.S.R.’s communist expansion threatened U.S. and Western European stability. The U.S. and its allies feared the spread of communism, threatening the democracies in Europe and the rest of the world. The


U.S.S.R. forcefully protected communism, while the U.S. did their best to counter the Soviet’s
global influence.\(^3\)

In the 1950’s, the mounting tensions between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. were illustrated in
Cuba as they vied for global influence. Fidel Castro organized a movement to overthrow
Fulgencio Batista, the U.S. backed regime in Cuba.\(^4\) The U.S. stopped supporting Batista when
his defeat became inevitable, resulting in Castro’s successful overthrow of the Cuban
government in 1959.\(^5\)

Castro implemented an Anti-U.S. government, alarming the U.S..\(^6\) The U.S.S.R.
expressed interest in protecting Cuba’s government from the U.S.. The Soviets would “pay any
price, bear any burden [to protect Socialism around the world].”\(^7\) In May 1960, Castro
announced diplomatic ties with the U.S.S.R.\(^8\) Even though the U.S. was one of the first
governments to recognize Castro, relations between the U.S. and Cuba quickly collapsed.\(^9\) The
U.S. broke all diplomatic ties with Cuba in early 1961, setting the stage for the Bay of Pigs
invasion.\(^10\)

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\(^7\) Dobbs, Michael. One Minute to Midnight : Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War. Cornerstone Digital, 2014. (Pages 46-47)


Newly elected president Kennedy inherited a plan to stage a revolution in Cuba and overthrow Castro’s government, but Kennedy was cautious of a public military invasion of Cuba. Not wanting to escalate the conflict with the Soviets, Kennedy directed the Central Intelligence Agency to keep U.S. involvement clandestine.¹¹

The Bay of Pigs invasion, April 17, 1961, was an embarrassment to the U.S.’s global image. Within two days, the invasion failed.¹² Worried about sparking World War III, Kennedy refused to send in the U.S. Navy. Castro, alarmed by the attempted U.S. invasion, begged Khrushchev to start sending military equipment to Cuba.¹³

On June 3, 1961, Kennedy met with Khrushchev to begin the Summit in Vienna, Austria.¹⁴ Premier Khrushchev’s intimidating demeanor surprised President Kennedy. Kennedy was completely unprepared for the Summit, expecting the meetings to be as easy and successful as the 1960 Presidential Debates had been.¹⁵

To Khrushchev, Kennedy looked inexperienced and immature. When debating Khrushchev, Kennedy often defended ideas he didn’t believe in, solely to oppose his Soviet adversary. In the world’s eyes, Kennedy’s arguments seemed outdated, defensive, and paranoid.¹⁶ After a meeting with British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, Macmillan reported President Kennedy seemed “Rather stunned—baffled perhaps would be fairer”.¹⁷

in Vienna taught President Kennedy how to communicate effectively and diplomatically with
Premier Khrushchev, a skill that would prove valuable in the near future.

A Direct Threat to Washington:

In July 1962, Castro and Khrushchev made a secret agreement, placing Soviet nuclear
missiles, military equipment and soldiers in Cuba, to protect them from another U.S. invasion.\(^\text{18}\)
Castro wanted the agreement to be public, so the U.S. couldn’t interfere. Khrushchev overruled,
arguing that sending the missiles to Cuba secretly would surprise the U.S. and give the U.S.S.R.
the upper hand in the Cold War.\(^\text{19}\) The U.S.S.R. claimed they did not want war, insisting they
were putting nuclear missiles in Cuba to give the U.S. “a taste of their own medicine”.\(^\text{20}\) Based
on the Vienna Summit, Khrushchev did not expect a strong U.S. response, believing President
Kennedy was weak and inexperienced in matters of diplomacy.

To hide the arrangement from the U.S., the Soviets transported soldiers and missiles to
Cuba in unconventional ways, hiding them aboard cargo ships.\(^\text{21}\) In October 1962, U.S.
intelligence discovered an alarming number of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba.\(^\text{22}\)

On October 16th, 1962 the U-2 surveillance planes’ photographic evidence of Soviet
missiles in Cuba was presented to President Kennedy.\(^\text{23}\) The U.S. questioned Soviet diplomats

\(^{18}\) The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. “Cuban Missile Crisis.” Encyclopædia Britannica,
\(^{19}\) Dobbs, Michael. One Minute to Midnight : Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of
Nuclear War. Cornerstone Digital, 2014. (Page 34)
\(^{20}\) Dobbs, Michael. One Minute to Midnight : Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of
Nuclear War. Cornerstone Digital, 2014. (Page 1)
\(^{21}\) Dobbs, Michael. One Minute to Midnight : Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of
\(^{22}\) Dobbs, Michael. One Minute to Midnight : Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of
\(^{23}\) Kennedy, Robert F. 13 Days: The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962. Pan, 1969 (pages
19-20)
about the missiles, the Soviet diplomats denied their very existence. In response to the escalating crisis in Cuba, Kennedy put together a committee of high ranking officials to advise him, the Executive Committee of the National Security Council (ExComm).

President Kennedy was under pressure from the U.S. military to initiate an air strike or invasion, but his experiences with the Bay of Pigs Invasion and Vienna Summit made him realize that an aggressive military approach would not be appropriate. Instead, Kennedy focused on de-escalation, and responded by stationing U.S. Navy Ships around Cuba to block Soviet vessels carrying offensive weapons from entering Cuba. ExComm made the diplomatic decision to phrase the action as a “quarantine”, because a blockade is considered an act of war. With the support of the Organization of American States, Kennedy informed U.S. allies of the quarantine before it went into effect, strengthening relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (N.A.T.O.). On Monday, October 22nd, Kennedy spoke to the nation on live TV and radio, announcing his diplomatic choice to quarantine Cuba. U.S. media was skeptical of the word “quarantine”, but most newspapers supported Kennedy’s choice to blockade Cuba.

Hold Fire:

To communicate as global allies instead of adversaries, President Kennedy sent a copy of his speech to Premier Khrushchev, starting the series of letters exchanged between the U.S. and U.S.S.R.. Kennedy informed Khrushchev of the quarantine and defended it, writing “It was in order to avoid any incorrect assessment on the part of your Government with respect to Cuba that I publicly stated that if certain developments in Cuba took place, the United States would do whatever must be done to protect its own security and that of its allies.”

The next day, Khrushchev replied to Kennedy defending the Soviet missiles in Cuba. Khrushchev’s letter accused Kennedy of “violating international norms of freedom of navigation on the high seas”. The same day Kennedy replied to Khrushchev, warning the Soviets not to challenge the quarantine. Kennedy also accused the U.S.S.R. of starting the crisis by placing offensive weapons in Cuba.

Khrushchev replied on October 24th, doubling down on his argument that the U.S. was violating international waters. Khrushchev said in the letter that “[he would] not simply be bystanders with regard to piratical acts by American ships on the high seas.”

On October 25th, Kennedy responded, defending the quarantine and accused Khrushchev of lying about the presence of missiles in Cuba. “…I learned beyond doubt what you have not denied -- namely, that all these public assurances were false and that your military people had set out recently to establish a set of missile bases in Cuba.”

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30 Kennedy, John F. “Letter From President Kennedy to Chairman Khrushchev, October 22, 1962.” Received by Chairman Khrushchev, United States, 22 Oct. 1962, Washington D.C.
31 Khrushchev, Nikita. “Chairman Khrushchev’s Letter to President Kennedy, October 23, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, Soviet Union, 23 Oct. 1962, Moscow.
32 Khrushchev, Nikita. “Letter From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy, October 24, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, The World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 24 Oct. 1962.
33 Kennedy, John F. “Letter From President Kennedy to Chairman Khrushchev, October 25, 1962.” Received by Chairman Khrushchev, United States, 25 Oct. 1962, Washington D.C.
The climate in Washington D.C. was tense. In the eyes of the Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Anatoly Dobrynin, people were preparing for nuclear war. “Noticeably fewer can be seen on Washington Streets…African Embassies warned their students at American universities to be ready for evacuation home.”

For anyone living in the U.S. or Cuba, it seemed the world was going to end.

On Friday, October 26th, Khrushchev directly communicated with Kennedy. The letter was unpolished in tone, indicating to ExComm that it was written by Khrushchev himself. Khrushchev offered to remove the missiles in Cuba as long as the U.S. promised not to invade. “I propose: We, for our part, will declare that our ships, bound for Cuba, will not carry any kind of armaments. You would declare that the United States will not invade Cuba.” In writing this letter, Khrushchev evaded his advisors and communicated directly with President Kennedy. Khrushchev compromised, ending the brinkmanship between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. and opening the door for real diplomacy.

On October 27th, Khrushchev’s second response to Kennedy, demanding the removal of the Jupiter missiles in Turkey as part of the deal. ExComm suspected this response was written by the Kremlin as it was polished and contradicted Khrushchev's previous offer. “Do you

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34 Archive of Foreign Policy, Russian Federation (AVP RF), Moscow; copy obtained by NHK (Japanese Television), provided to CWIHP, and on file at National Security Archive, Washington, D.C.; translation by Vladimir Zaemsky.
36 Khrushchev, Nikita. “Department of State Telegram Transmitting Letter From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy, October 26, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, Soviet Union, 26 Oct. 1962, Moscow.
consider, then, that you have the right to demand security for your own country and the removal of the weapons you call offensive, but do not accord the same right to us?\(^{37}\)

ExComm debated how to respond. Many members believed the U.S. lacked the authority to pull N.A.T.O. supplied missiles out of Turkey. ExComm was concerned that withdrawing missiles from Turkey would make the U.S. look weak, to both the American public and our allies. Most ExComm members believed Kennedy should answer the second letter, but refuse the new terms. Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Ted Sorensen, President Kennedy’s personal advisor, disagreed, and advised the President to ignore the second letter and agree to Kruschev’s first deal. President Kennedy agreed, and signed their draft.\(^{38}\)

That night, Robert Kennedy met with Anotoly Dobrynin, agreeing to remove the N.A.T.O. missiles only if it was not part of the public resolution. Khrushchev accepted.\(^{39}\) President Kennedy issued a public statement announcing “I welcome Chairman Khrushchev's statesmanlike decision to stop building bases in Cuba, dismantling offensive weapons and returning them to the U.S.S.R. under United Nations verification. This is an important and constructive contribution to peace.”\(^{40}\) By engaging in direct communications, Kennedy and Khrushchev diplomatically resolved the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Diffusion:**

\(^{37}\) Khrushchev, Nikita. “Letter From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy, October 27, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, Soviet Union, 27 Oct. 1962, Moscow.

\(^{38}\) Kennedy, Robert F. 13 Days: The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962. Pan, 1969. (Page 77)

\(^{39}\) Kennedy, Robert F. 13 Days: The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962. Pan, 1969. (page 84)

\(^{40}\) Khrushchev, Nikita. “Letter From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy, October 28, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, Soviet Union, 28 Oct. 1962, Moscow.
On October 28, 1962, the U.S.S.R. started removing their missiles from Cuba under United Nations supervision.\textsuperscript{41} In the spring of 1963, Jupiter Missiles were removed from Turkey after N.A.T.O. agreed.\textsuperscript{42}

The successful de-escalation of the Cuban Missile Crisis proved that nuclear war tensions could be eased through direct communication.\textsuperscript{43} President Kennedy believed that future confrontations could be resolved diplomatically, starting a trend that continued until the end of the Cold War.

The correspondence between Kennedy and Khrushchev highlighted how ridiculously slow and tedious the process of communication was between the two nations. The letters had to be sent to their embassy abroad, then translated, and finally hand delivered to recipients. In all, letters could take nearly twelve hours to get from one world leader to the other.\textsuperscript{44} To expedite communication, the hotline was installed directly between Moscow and Washington, DC. The direct telegraph line decreased the time lag in communications between the Soviet Premier and the U.S. President, thus accelerating diplomatic actions between the two superpowers and avoiding miscalculations that could lead to nuclear war.\textsuperscript{45}

The direct hotline was utilized during the Cold War to communicate about international affairs. In 1967, it was used to discuss the Six Day War. Four years later, it was used to debate

\textsuperscript{41}“Cuban Missile Crisis.” Cuban Missile Crisis | JFK Library, https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/cuban-missile-crisis.
\textsuperscript{43}Reeves, Richard. President Kennedy: Profile of Power. Easton Press, 2000
\textsuperscript{44}Dobbs, Michael. One Minute to Midnight : Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War. Cornerstone Digital, 2014. (Pages 163-164)
tensions between Pakistan and India. In 1973 to discuss the rising conflicts in the Middle East.\textsuperscript{46} The hotline extended direct communication through the Cold War, assisting in its eventual diplomatic resolution.

In 1978, the hotline was updated from a telegraph line under the Atlantic to two Satellite links.\textsuperscript{47} While the physical attributes of diplomacy evolved, the need for a direct link between countries is still present.\textsuperscript{48}

While the U.S. was pleased with the result of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Soviets viewed the crisis as a loss.\textsuperscript{49} In order to save face, they presented the Cuban Missile Crisis as a win to the Soviet public. “The peoples of the socialist nations have every reason to be proud of the fact that, in the hour when the fate of mankind was being decided, they proved to be a mighty bastion barring the path to the imperialist aggressor.”\textsuperscript{50}

Two years after the Cuban Missile Crisis, Khrushchev was removed from office for his perceived poor handling of the U.S. during the Cuban Missile Crisis.\textsuperscript{51}


As a result of the crisis, the U.S. and Soviets began communicating more regularly and directly, resulting in agreements and treaties escalating tensions around nuclear weapons and warfare.52

**Tensions Reemerge:**

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a proxy conflict, exemplifying not just the tensions between the two superpowers, but how those conflicts affect the rest of the world.53 Succeeding U.S. administrations learned the same lesson Kennedy learned in Vienna; that direct communication and compromise is vital to successful diplomacy. Unfortunately, after the Cold War ended, this approach was not prioritized, and the concept soon faded from the U.S.-Russia (Present day U.S.S.R.) relations.54

The political and military tensions between the U.S. and Russia are rising again, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine serving as evidence of the breakdown of diplomacy. In February 2022, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, an ex-soviet country on its western border. Russia’s President Vladimir Putin claims the invasion was to “Demilitarize and De-Nazify Ukraine”55. Most western countries believe the Russian Invasion was to counter Ukraine’s attempts to join N.A.T.O..56 While Ukraine insists Russia invaded because “the core values and DNA of Ukrainian society – a love of freedom, democracy, free thinking and European values – are

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values that are anathema to Putin; he can neither comprehend, nor tolerate, these values – and so instead he is seeking to destroy them.”

Unlike the Cuban Missile Crisis, diplomacy failed, Russia invaded Ukraine, spreading war and destruction. In 1962, Khrushchev was the first to lose face, going to great measures to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis. In turn, Kennedy compromised too, sealing the deal on diplomacy. However, in 2022, the brinkmanship continues, largely due to N.A.T.O.’s and Putin’s desire to save face, preventing direct communication.

The war in Ukraine represents the conflict between Putin and N.A.T.O., just as the Cuban Missile Crisis represented the conflict between the U.S. and U.S.S.R.. The communication sent between President Kennedy and Khrushchev established a connection between the two superpowers. In 1962, the direct communication between Khrushchev and Kennedy led them to compromise, preventing war. In 2022, Putin’s and N.A.T.O.’s superciliousness during their communication prevented them from compromising, leading to war.

Conclusion:

The letters exchanged between President Kennedy and Premier Kruschev proved that direct communication is essential to successful diplomacy. During the Cold War, the installation of the hotline implemented direct communication between leaders, leading to its eventual diffusion. However, events in Ukraine call for more than the hotline. They require the

re-prioritization of direct communication that brought a diplomatic resolution to the Cuban
Missile Crisis.
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Archive of Foreign Policy, Russian Federation (AVP RF), Moscow; copy obtained by NHK (Japanese Television), provided to CWIHP, and on file at National Security Archive, Washington, D.C.; translation by Vladimir Zaemsky.

This source helped me understand the Soviet view of the Cuban Missile Crisis. It was written by Dobrynin, a Soviet Ambassador to the U.S., to the Soviet Foreign Ministry. It was an important narrative in my project.


This paper showed the media’s skepticism of President Kennedy's choice of the word “quarantine”. I used this source in my Hold Fire section to introduce the American Public’s view of the crisis.


This article helped me understand the public reaction to the blockade of Cuba. It also showed me that the Cuban Missile Crisis was one of the most pressing events at the time, as it took up most of the front page.


This newspaper helped me understand the public’s view of the resolution. It backed up what my other sources were telling me about part of the deal between President Kennedy and Kruschev being secret.

I used this newspaper article in my Hold Fire section, to help capture the public knowledge of the Cuban Missile Crisis.


This was the first letter in the sequence, it was a copy of Kennedy’s speech on October 22nd, 1962. This letter helped me understand how President Kennedy wished to communicate with Krushchev.


In this letter Kennedy accused Krushchev of lying about the presence of missiles in Cuba. It helped me realize that Kennedy and Krushchev were pointing fingers.


This source helped me understand President Kennedy's response to Krushchev’s previous letter. It was an important source because I could see exactly what President Kennedy wrote to Krushchev.


This letter helped me to understand what Kennedy said to Krushchev when he accepted the deal.

This is the transcript of President Kennedy’s speech on October 22nd. I used it to understand how Kennedy was communicating with Americans.


This book helped me understand ExComm’s response to the missile build up in Cuba. It also helped explain the personal impact of the letters on the Kennedys. This source also helped me understand when and why Robert F. Kennedy met with Ambassador Dobrynin to inform the Soviet Union on Missiles in Turkey and Italy.


This video helped me understand the atmosphere of the 1960 presidential debates. In President Kennedy: Profile of Power, they compared the June 3-4 Vienna Summits, to the 1960 Presidential Debates, and this video helped me understand their connection.

Krushchev, Nikita. “Chairman Khrushchev's Letter to President Kennedy, October 23, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, The World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 23 Oct. 1962,

In this letter Krushchev claimed that the missiles in Cuba were for “defensive purposes only”. It allowed me to fully understand how Krushchev approached the conversation.

Krushchev, Nikita. “Letter From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy, October 24, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, The World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 24 Oct. 1962,

In this letter Krushchev accused Kennedy of violating international laws with the “quarantine”. This helped me to understand the response to this letter by Kennedy.

Krushchev, Nikita. “Department of State Telegram Transmitting Letter From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy, October 26, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, The World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 26 Oct. 1962,
In this letter Khrushchev offers to remove missiles in Cuba if the U.S. promise not to invade Cuba. It helped me understand the tone of President Kennedy and Krushchev’s conversation.

Khrushchev, Nikita. “Letter From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy, October 27, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, The World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 27 Oct. 1962,

This letter came after Krushchev’s offer to remove missiles in Cuba. In this letter he demanded that Jupiter Missiles in Turkey and Italy also be removed as part of the deal.

Khrushchev, Nikita. “Letter From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy, October 28, 1962.” Received by President Kennedy, The World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 28 Oct. 1962,

This letter was from Krushchev to President Kennedy thanking him for signing the deal to remove missiles from Turkey, Italy and Cuba. It helped me understand the immediate impact of the deal.


This source helped me understand the media’s role in the Cuban Missile Crisis. It also gave me a second perspective to my other primary sources.


This source helped me understand what happened the night Soviet Diplomats met with John Scali.

This source helped me understand the Soviet public’s view of the Cuban Missile Crisis, and how the Soviet Union’s media was biased towards the Soviet Government.


This is a political cartoon depicting Krushchev removing missiles (teeth) from Castro’s mouth. It helped me understand the aftermath of my event, and Krushchev was humiliated by the removal of missiles.


I quoted this source in my main event section. It helped me to understand the importance of the crisis to the American People. It also provided an example of Kennedy’s writing which furthered my understanding of the importance of choosing words carefully.

**Secondary Sources:**


This website helped me understand when and why the Hotline was used. It also gave me interesting information about how the Hotline was updated over the years.


This website helped me understand the aftermath of the Bay of Pigs Invasion. It also gave me information about how many people were part of it.

This website gave me crucial information about the Bay of Pigs Invasion. It also helped me understand the aftermath of the invasion and how the events led up to the Cuban Missile Crisis.


This article talks about the cause of the Ukraine War. It helped me introduce the conflict in Ukraine in my Tensions Reemerge section.


This source gave me an overview of the Cold War, which helped me establish a timeline of events. It allowed me to step back and evaluate my topic from a different point of view.


I used this source to check other sources, it also had some interesting photos that helped me understand the crisis better.


I used this source in the immediate impact section, to answer my questions about Krushchev’s removal from his office, which led me to believe that the U.S.S.R. wasn’t happy with his leadership during the crisis.


This article talks about the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks/Treaty. It gave me a deeper understanding of how the crisis impacted the military.

This article helped me further understand the legacy of the Cuban Missile Crisis as a whole. It gave me a strong understanding of the current (American) public opinion of the crisis and its significance today.


This source helped me understand President Kennedy’s overall impact in the Cold War.


This book gave me important information about the impact and legacy of the Cuban Missile Crisis. This book focuses on President Kennedy’s response to the Crisis.


I used this source in the early stages of my research to help me understand the Cuban Missile Crisis as a whole. It was also helpful in visualizing how the Cuban Missile Crisis fit into the Cold War.


This article helped me understand the full impact of the war in Ukraine. I used this source in my impact section.

This book helped me get an overview of the crisis. This was one of my first sources, and where I began my research. While One Minute to Midnight mainly talks about the Crisis from a U.S. perspective, the book helped me understand the diplomacy that happened in the Crisis.


This source helped me understand the anti-Missile Treaties that followed the Cuban Missile Crisis.


I used this source to understand the treaties between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. after the Cuban Missile Crisis.


This article explains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. I used it in my Defuse section when I was talking about the impacts of the Cuban Missile Crisis.


This source gave me an important overview of the Bay of the Pigs Invasion. It allowed me to access the impact of the Bay of Pigs Invasion on the Cuban Missile Crisis.


This article helped me understand the impact of the Berlin Wall on the Cuban Missile crisis and Cold War.

This source gave me critical information about the Cuban Revolution and the political state of Cuba before and during the Cuban Missile Crisis.


I used this source to explain the 1960’s Presidential Debates in my A Ticking Time Bomb section. It also helped me comprehend the 1960’s Presidential Debate footage.


This article helped me understand Krushchev’s perspective of Kennedy. It helped me understand both the meeting between the two leaders in Vienna and their relationship going into the Cuban Missile Crisis.


This book gave some important information about the build-up of the Cuban Missile Crisis. It helped me to understand Castro’s political views, as well as the U.S. response to Castro’s rise to power.


I used this source in my legacy section to understand the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It helped me compare and contrast the Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

This source helped me understand the stages of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Relations, and also how the Cuban Missile Crisis affected the Cold War.


This interview helped me connect the Cuban Missile Crisis with the War in Ukraine. It also helped me with the short term impact of my topic.


This source was used in the long before section. It helped me understand the diplomacy that happened before the crisis between Kennedy and Krushchev.


This source helped me understand the significance of the Cuban Missile Crisis, this source was somewhat outdated, as it was published before the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.


This source was used in the legacy section. I used it to understand the enduring impact of the crisis and why my topic still matters today.


I used this article to help prove the argument made in my thesis statement and in my legacy section. It gave me evidence that the Cuban Missile Crisis was a major turning point in the Cold War.

This book helped me understand Kennedy’s choice to blockade Cuba. Although the focus of this book was World War I, it compared the beginning of World War I to the beginning of the Cuban Missile Crisis.


This interview helped me understand how individual people reacted to the Cuban Missile Crisis in both the U.S. and Cuba.


I used this article to help me develop my connection between the Cuban Missile Crisis and the War in Ukraine. It was interesting to hear another person’s take on how the two conflicts relate.


This article talks about ExComm. It helped me get a better understanding of what these meetings were and how they affected the outcome of the Cuban Missile Crisis. This article also backed up information I had gotten from One Minute to Midnight, by Michael Dobbs.


I used this source to clarify my timeline in the before section of my project. It helped me lay out my project and understand U.S.-Cuba relations before and after the Cuban Missile Crisis.

This article talks about the Hotline, the telephone line that was installed after the Cuban Missile Crisis. It helped me understand how the communication between the U.S. and U.S.S.R./Russia evolved.


This article helped me understand the end of the Cold War and why it is still important. It also helped me connect my topic to the end of the Cold War.


This source helped me to understand the current state of U.S.-Russia relations. It helped me understand the build up of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Biden’s relationship with Putin.


This source helped me understand the meeting between Robert Kennedy and Dobrynin. This source matched with many of my other sources.


This source helped me understand the Cuban public’s mood leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis. It also gave me some context on the Cuban Missile Crisis.

This source helped me understand the wording around “blockade”. It helped me understand why President Kennedy called it a “quarantine”.


I used this statement in my Tensions Reemerge section to add another perspective on the War in Ukraine. This helped me understand Russia’s take on the conflict.


This book gave me looks of good information about President Kennedy’s personal response to the crisis. I found this source particularly helpful when I was writing about Krushchev and President Kennedy’s meeting in Vienna. It really helped me understand how the event changed President Kennedy.


This article helped me understand the current world leaders calling for a diplomatic resolution in Ukraine.


This book was hard to read, but it gave me an important understanding of the Cold War as a whole.


This article was an important addition to my project, as it helped me understand Ukraine’s perspective on the War in Ukraine.

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I used this article in my Tensions Reemerge section, it helped me understand the War in Ukraine and why it relates to the Cuban Missile Crisis. It also helped me compare world leaders in both conflicts.


This source helped me understand the Russian’s public opinion on the War in Ukraine, and how the Russian Government might have influenced it.