

Thomas Nevill
Professor O'Hara
HIS114
4/3/23

Film Response

The Cuban Missile Crisis occurred in October 1962, resulting from the Soviet Union's decision to install nuclear missiles in Cuba. Before this, the United States had been attempting to overthrow the communist government in Cuba led by Fidel Castro. The Soviets saw the missile deployment as a way to deter any further U.S. aggression. The U.S. became aware of the missiles through surveillance photos, and President Kennedy convened his top advisors to consider their response.

The early options included a naval blockade, airstrikes, or a full-scale invasion of Cuba. The U.S. ultimately decided on a naval blockade to prevent further Soviet ships from delivering missiles to Cuba, and they also demanded the removal of the existing missiles. The Soviet Union initially denied the presence of missiles in Cuba but later admitted to their deployment and refused to remove them, leading to a standoff between the two superpowers.

Black Saturday, October 27th, was the point of extreme danger when a U.S. naval vessel dropped depth charges on a Soviet submarine in Cuban waters. The Soviet sub was equipped with nuclear torpedoes and was running out of oxygen, and the captain had to decide whether to use them. Fortunately, he chose not to, and the crisis was eventually resolved through negotiations between Kennedy and Soviet Premier Khrushchev. The U.S. agreed not to invade Cuba, and the Soviets agreed to remove their missiles from Cuba in exchange for a U.S. pledge not to invade Cuba and to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey.

In the aftermath of the crisis, both sides realized the dangers of nuclear brinkmanship, and there was a renewed effort to negotiate arms control agreements. The problem also highlighted the importance of communication and diplomacy in preventing nuclear war.