

World Civilization II (OA)

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April 6, 2023

Film Response Chapter 24

The event that led to the crisis was an escalating arms race between the US and the Soviet Union. Soviet Missiles were deployed in Cuba ready to fire upon Washington, New York, and most of the eastern seaboard. U.S. President John F. Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev engaged in a 13-day battle where one wrong move from either side would lead to destruction. The early options and decisions of the United States were to use U2 spy planes to spot the missiles that were hidden in Cuba. As a result, President Kennedy set up a group called Xcom. This group was made up of his most influential and trusted advisors. They advised him of two options, set up a naval blockade around Cuba to prevent more shipments of missiles from arriving or he could use air strikes to take out the missile sites before they could be completed. Kennedy decided on the blockade which would cause less conflict and open the chance for negotiations. After Kennedy's Presidential address, Kruschchev appreciated Kennedy's restraint and the Soviet Union decided not to invade the US. However, they were prepared should the US decide to fire on them.

The Crisis came to a head on October 27, 1962, which became known as Black Saturday. There would be an extreme danger because a series of events would take place that could lead to a nuclear war. One of these events was Castro writing a letter to Kruschev, that a nuclear first strike should be considered against the US. He believed that a US invasion was imminent, and

he wanted his Soviet Allies to through the first bow. However, instead of firing Kruschev wanted to resolve the issue. A secret agreement between Kennedy and the Soviet Union was formed without Castro's knowledge. As a result of this agreement Missiles were dismantled and the naval blockade was removed.

The aftermath was both sides agreeing to avoid nuclear strikes on either side in the future.