

Ariele D'Amil  
4/6/23  
Film and response  
Dr. O'Hara

The Cuban Missile Crisis is the closest the U.S. and U.S.S.R. came to actual war during the long years of the Cold War. After watching the film, write a one - two paragraph summary including:

Tensions had been growing between the United States and Russia during the Cold War. Both sides were in competition over who had the most nuclear power and the fact that the United States didn't believe in communism and refused to recognize the government of the USSR. This caused many Americans to be afraid of the Russians because they thought that they would try to take over the United States and eventually the world.

Meanwhile, Cuba was a popular vacation spot for people of the United States. It was so popular that over time the United States had control of most of the tourist businesses, attractions, casinos and banks in Cuba. However, this changed when Fidel Castro became the communist leader of Cuba and was backed up by the Soviet Union and its leader Nikita Khrushchev which caused the businesses to become nationalized.

In the early part of April of 1961 President Kennedy sent troops to the island of Cuba to assist in the revolution that was going on during that time. This is now what is known as the Bay of Pigs invasion. Kennedy's intention was to eliminate communism from Cuba but this was unsuccessful as the locals didn't assist the troops and they were captured by Castro's men. This caused the United States to retreat. Khrushchev then decided to bring nuclear missiles to Cuba in secrecy because he thought the United States might try again to intervene with the communist party who was now running Cuba under Castro's rule. The missiles were successfully brought over and weren't even noticed for almost a month before being recognized by the United States. When the United States

finally found out about the missiles this caused a lot of panic which ultimately affected the stock market and many stores to run out of food because of people stockpiling.

In October 1962 also known as the Cuban Missile Crisis was over a period of thirteen days. During these thirteen days The Soviet Union had nuclear missiles that were in Cuba and were pointed at the United States. The United States also had missiles pointed at the Soviet Union that were in Turkey and in Italy. Both groups wanted the other to back off first. With this being said "one wrong move can cause global destruction" (The Life Guide). Kennedy decided that instead of attacking first which could cause thousands of casualties and for sure start a nuclear war he would set up a blockade that would prevent Russia from bringing in any further supplies to Cuba. This worked and Russia wasn't able to bring in any further supplies but this didn't ease the tension between the two countries. Then on October 27, 1962 now known as "Black Saturday" after several letters from Khrushchev for a deal. The United States sent in a single plane with air pilot Rudolph Anderson. He went in and flew around so he could take pictures to see where the missiles were located exactly but his plane was quickly shot down by the Russias. By this time other than Kennedy and Khrushchev both sides were ready and wanted to strike first. In a final effort for peace Kennedy with the help of his brother US Attorney General Bobby Kennedy wrote a letter to Khrushchev that said that he wouldn't attack Cuba and he would remove the missiles from Turkey and Italy if they in return removed their missiles that were in Cuba and pointed at the United States.

In conclusion although some were unhappy with the fact both sides backed down some saw this as a beginning. This new beginning forced both sides to have better and quicker communication with one another. Both sides agreed that if a war had ensued that this would cause mass destruction and thousands if not millions of civilians would lose their lives.

The Life Guide, 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UbVuTXg4CQ>