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World civ II

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a critical event that occurred during the Cold War, bringing the United States and the Soviet Union to the brink of war. The crisis was triggered by a series of events that unfolded in 1962. In April 1961, the U.S. supported a failed attempt by Cuban exiles to overthrow Fidel Castro's communist government in Cuba, known as the Bay of Pigs invasion. This resulted in increased tensions between the U.S. and Cuba, as well as between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, which was providing military and economic aid to Cuba.

In response to the perceived threat from the U.S., the Soviet Union decided to deploy nuclear missiles to Cuba. In October 1962, U.S. intelligence discovered evidence of the construction of missile bases in Cuba, which were confirmed by aerial reconnaissance photographs. U.S. President John F. Kennedy and his advisors considered various options, including military strikes and a full-scale invasion of Cuba, to remove the missile threat. However, after careful deliberation, Kennedy decided to pursue a naval blockade of Cuba to prevent further shipments of missiles from reaching the island, as well as a diplomatic solution through negotiations with the Soviet Union.

As the United States took action, the Soviet Union reacted angrily, with Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, calling the embargo an act of aggression. But, as the crisis worsened, both parties started to display signals of openness to discussion and a peaceful conclusion. Kennedy and Khrushchev established a backchannel of contact, and a series of heated diplomatic conversations took place.

The most dangerous point of the crisis, known as Black Saturday, occurred on October 27, 1962. During this time, a U.S. spy plane was shot down over Cuba, and a U.S. Navy ship was almost attacked by a Soviet submarine. Tensions were extremely high, and there was a real risk of accidental escalation into a full-scale war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Fortunately, a resolution was reached on October 28, 1962, when both sides agreed to a deal. The U.S. agreed not to invade Cuba and to lift the blockade, while the Soviet Union agreed to dismantle its missile bases in Cuba and remove its missiles from the island. The crisis came to an end without a war, but it left a lasting impact on the world, with both the U.S. and the Soviet Union recognizing the dangers of nuclear brinkmanship and taking steps to avoid further crises. It also marked a turning point in U.S.-Soviet relations, leading to increased efforts to improve communication and reduce tensions during the remainder of the Cold War.