

# Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro in the Cuban Missile Crisis: A Detailed Analysis

The Cuban Missile Crisis, which occurred in October 1962, was one of the most dangerous moments in human history. The crisis brought the United States and the Soviet Union to the brink of nuclear war. At the heart of the crisis were three key leaders: US President John F. Kennedy, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, and Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro.



## The Armageddon Letters: Kennedy, Khrushchev, Castro in the Cuban Missile Crisis by James G. Blight

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In this article, we will take a closer look at the roles played by these three leaders during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We will examine their motivations, actions, and the impact their decisions had on the course of events.

## John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy was the 35th President of the United States. He was in office from 1961 until his assassination in 1963. Kennedy was a young and charismatic leader who was determined to stand up to the Soviet Union.

When the Cuban Missile Crisis began, Kennedy was initially inclined to take a hard line against the Soviets. He considered launching airstrikes against the missile sites in Cuba. However, he eventually decided to pursue a more diplomatic approach.

Kennedy met with Khrushchev at the Vienna Summit in June 1961, where they agreed to a compromise that would resolve the crisis peacefully. The Soviets agreed to remove their missiles from Cuba, and the United States agreed to remove its missiles from Turkey.

Kennedy's handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis was widely praised. He was seen as a strong and decisive leader who had averted nuclear war. However, some historians have argued that Kennedy's actions during the crisis were reckless and could have led to a nuclear war.

## **Nikita Khrushchev**

Nikita Khrushchev was the leader of the Soviet Union from 1953 to 1964. He was a close ally of Fidel Castro, and he saw the Cuban Missile Crisis as an opportunity to strengthen the Soviet Union's position in the Cold War.

Khrushchev ordered the deployment of nuclear missiles to Cuba in secret. He believed that the missiles would deter the United States from invading Cuba and would give the Soviet Union a strategic advantage in the Cold War.

However, Khrushchev did not anticipate the strong reaction from the United States. Kennedy imposed a naval blockade of Cuba and demanded that the missiles be removed. Khrushchev eventually agreed to remove the missiles, but he did so reluctantly.

Khrushchev's handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis was seen as a major blunder. He was criticized for misjudging the United States' reaction and for putting the world on the brink of nuclear war.

## **Fidel Castro**

Fidel Castro was the Prime Minister of Cuba from 1959 to 2008. He was a close ally of the Soviet Union, and he welcomed the deployment of nuclear missiles to Cuba.

Castro believed that the missiles would protect Cuba from invasion by the United States. He also believed that the missiles would give Cuba a stronger negotiating position with the United States.

However, Castro was not fully informed about the details of the missile deployment. He did not know that the missiles were nuclear-tipped, and he did not know that the Soviet Union had agreed to remove them.

Castro was furious when he learned that the missiles were being removed. He accused Khrushchev of betraying Cuba. However, he eventually agreed to the removal of the missiles, in order to avoid a war with the United States.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a complex and dangerous event that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. The crisis was resolved peacefully, but

it could easily have ended in disaster.

The Cuban Missile Crisis is a reminder of the importance of diplomacy and negotiation. It is also a reminder of the dangers of nuclear weapons.



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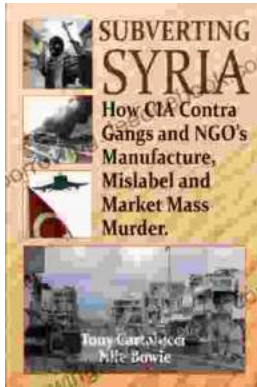
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