



# JFK

By: Chris Martin and Lily Cronin



# JFK Campaign



- Election of 1960: JFK vs. Nixon
- Cold War war the main focus of the campaign, not civil rights or other domestic issues
- Used television to get popularity
- The first debate between JFK and Nixon was televised and JFK took advantage of this and people who watched saw JFK as the winner
- [https://youtu.be/JLXTB\\_S193w](https://youtu.be/JLXTB_S193w)

# Bay of Pigs



- Mission by US government to invade Cuba and overthrow Fidel Castro
- JFK sent troops made up of Cuban refugees to the bay of pigs
- The Plan was dependent on the Cuban people supporting the invasion and helping the American troops; the US government was just assuming that this would happen but they did not really have any idea if they would receive support
- Mission failed and US troops were defeated badly by Castro's troops
- Considered to be one of JFK's worst decision to send the troops into Cuba

---

## Vienna and Berlin



- JFK and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev met in Vienna and Berlin to discuss policies and views on how things work out in Berlin
- Khrushchev took a harsh stance and wanted total control of Berlin
- Berlin was the epicenter of the war: whoever could gain control of Berlin would gain control of the war
- Did not go well for JFK, Khrushchev came out of the meetings unimpressed with JFK and his ability to negotiate and be president



# Cuban Missile Crisis

- The Soviet Union secretly shipped missiles, troops, and other weapons to Cuba, with leader Fidel Castro, so they would have a closer aim and target at the United States
  - ◆ October 1962
- A US plane detected the missiles, and told President JFK, who decided to quarantine Cuba, (same as a blockade, but that is a war-time term)
- Finally, a deal was drawn that the Soviet Union would take back their Cuban missiles, if the US dismantles and returns their Turkey missiles
  - ◆ Hours away from a WWIII



# Cuban Missile Crisis

JFK's involvement:

- The Crisis was ultimately a result of bad communication between JFK and Khrushchev
- The dismantling of some of both sides' atomic bombs lessened the tensions between the two factions

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 22, 1962

Sir:

A copy of the statement I am making tonight concerning developments in Cuba and the reaction of my Government thereto has been handed to your Ambassador in Washington. In view of the gravity of the developments to which I refer, I want you to know immediately and accurately the position of my Government in this matter.

In our discussions and exchanges on Berlin and other international questions, the one thing that has most concerned me has been the possibility that your Government would not correctly understand the will and determination of the United States in any given situation, since I have not assumed that you or any other sane man would, in this nuclear age, deliberately plunge the world into war which it is crystal clear no country could win and which could only result in catastrophic consequences to the whole world, including the aggressor.

At our meeting in Vienna and subsequently, I expressed our readiness and desire to find, through peaceful negotiation, a solution to any and all problems that divide us. At the same time, I made clear that in view of the objectives of the ideology to which you adhere, the United States could not tolerate any action on your part which in a major way disturbed the existing over-all balance of power in the world. I stated that an attempt to force abandonment of our responsibilities and commitments in Berlin would constitute such an action and that the United States would resist with all the power at its command.

It was in order to avoid any incorrect assessment on the part of your Government with respect to Cuba that I publicly stated that if certain developments in Cuba took place, the United States would do whatever must be done to protect its own security and that of its allies.

- 2 -

Moreover, the Congress adopted a resolution expressing its support of this declared policy. Despite this, the rapid development of long-range missile bases and other offensive weapons systems in Cuba has proceeded. I must tell you that the United States is determined that this threat to the security of this hemisphere be removed. At the same time, I wish to point out that the action we are taking is the minimum necessary to remove the threat to the security of the nations of this hemisphere. The fact of this minimum response should not be taken as a basis, however, for any misjudgement on your part.

I hope that your Government will refrain from any action which would widen or deepen this already grave crisis and that we can agree to resume the path of peaceful negotiation.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Nikita S. Khrushchev  
Chairman of the Council of Ministers  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
MOSCOW

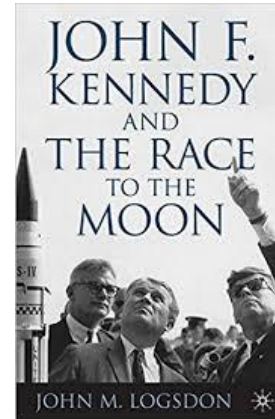


"Didn't hear the last bit you were saying, Nik, I think we were cut off..."

The letter communication was too slow, so after this incident a hotline directly between JFK and the Soviet Union leader Khrushchev was put up, and is now displayed in the JFK Library in Boston!

# Mission to the Moon

- JFK had a fascination in space, and he did not want to become equal with the Soviet Union's space programs, but surpass them and beat them to the moon - it was a race
- JFK bumped up NASA's budget from 7 billion to 9 billion
- Unfortunately JFK was shot before he could see the first man walk on the moon in 1969

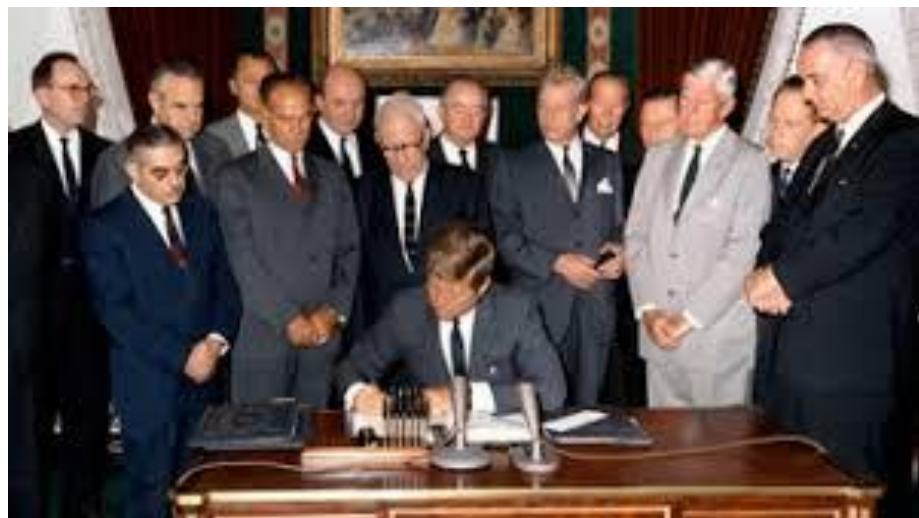






# Limiting Nuclear Testing

- Kennedy made a deal with Great Britain and the Soviet Union to limit the nuclear testing in Earth's atmosphere
- Doing this would limit the nuclear fallout and dangers to people from radiation
- One of Kennedy's main goals was to reduce the amount of nuclear testing, which would reduce the tension between the countries
- Considered one of Kennedy's greatest accomplishments as president





# Legacy

- JFK tends to be thought of as a great president, but if you look at what he did, his presidency was not as good as people think
- Historians are re-evaluating JFK's presidency, he had previously been judged based on popularity, not accomplishments
- His foreign policy was still the focus of the Truman doctrine, to contain the spread of communism
  - ◆ Did not contain Communism very well as it spread to Cuba, and the Soviet Union became more powerful during his presidency