

*Who gained from the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962?*

**Word Count:** 1386

## Table of Contents

Section A: Identification and Evaluation of Sources .....	3
Section B: Investigation .....	4
Conclusion .....	6
Section C: Reflection.....	7
Bibliography .....	8

## **Section A: Identification and Evaluation of Sources**

I will evaluate two different sources, CNN's Cold War documentary 1959 to 1962. I concluded that the CNN source was very reliable to my recent discoveries. I declare this statement because we get to see in the documentary, from the people involved in the Cold War, it talks about the first perspective you on it and recalls her memories. Not only that, it interviewed while the Cold War was happening; this made for a perfect primary source. Another thing that I have discovered while judging the source because it's very biased towards Fidel Castro, showing him as the actual victim and making the Americans look bad. CNN is an American news website. I found it distant how they talked not so well about Americans. Being an American news outlet, the journalist probably wanted to create a new story for the Americans.

The second source that I want to compare is the JFK Museum library. It talks about the memoirs and the struggles JFK had while he was the president. This, of course, is very biased as it comes from the JFK Museum, trying to make him look a lot stronger and better than the other. To some extent, it is very reliable. It shows a good amount of information and corrects, judging it by other sources. Something disturbing was that I could not find who wrote the history of JFK, the author.

From all this being said, the CNN source was indeed a lot better and helped me a lot more, giving me the primary source of people who survived and lived and worked in the Cold War.

## Section B: Investigation

In 1903, the Platt-Amendment agreement made Cuba officially a free country, but the US influence was significant, and most of their money and products went to the USA. In 1940 Fulgencio Batista was elected President. Things were going well for Cuba at this time. In 1944 Batista stepped down but returned in a staged coup in 1952. Batista inherited a relatively prosperous country for Latin America, although a third of Cubans still lived in poverty. The Batista government became corrupt during this period and even established connections with organized crime (the US mafia). In 1958 the US stopped the support to the Batista regime, and then it was just a matter of time before his government would fall. After New Year 1958/59, Batista was overthrown by a young Cuban lawyer, Fidel Castro.

When Fidel Castro came into power, he wanted to negotiate with the USA because they dominated the Cuban economy. Even if Cuba did well compared to the rest of the Latin American countries, Cuba was still a country with widespread poverty. This was because the Cuban income was going abroad. Also, the crops they had went to the USA, not leaving much for Cuba. Cuba's agreement with the USA stated that they could not pursue international trade. Fidel Castro went to the USA to negotiate, but President Eisenhower refused to receive him. In reality, he went to play golf instead of dealing with Fidel Castro. Fidel Castro's response was to ask for help from the USSR. The USSR decided to support Cuba economically. They both had something in common mistrust of the USA.

Cuba was powerful even though being a tiny country, and they were enough to disturb the most advanced and most robust country in the world at the moment, the USA. But how can a country with so many starving people threaten the United States of America so severely that it almost ended up in nuclear war?

The Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev was more potent at the beginning of the 1960s with the Berlin Wall being built and the CIA's failure to help Cuban exiles invade the country at Bay of Pigs. John F Kennedy had to act quickly from his fear of communism and Castro taking the USSR side. The CIA wanted to find more information on Cuba with Castro's plan to hide something from the United States of America. The USA needs to look on top of Cuba air. That would be the best way of not getting caught by Castro's soldiers. JFK and the CIA needed to be

top secret. JFK planes were detected in Cuba even though he disguised them as Cuban military planes, and he denied all of his plans towards Cuba. Cuba was problematic because they were obligated to sell all their plantations and sugar to the USA.

When Khrushchev managed to put the missiles in Cuba, it was a whole new type of war because the United States of America also had missiles in turkey enough to hit the Soviet Union. This led up to the missile crisis. The Cuban missile crisis was terrifying. The Americans started publishing commercials about what to do with a nuclear disaster and hiding how to take cover. Castro began feeling left out of this; the second the missiles were on their soil, the Soviet union forgot about Fidel Castro's words and just used him. This unbearable tension lasted 13 days between the United States and the Soviet Union, not knowing if they would shoot the missiles and create a whole new type of war or make peace between them.

On the first day, October 15, the CIA has found the Cuban missiles with suitable range enough to strike the united states of America. On October 16, JFK had a few options, from negotiating peace with the leader of the Soviet Union and Castro or Having a missile attack on the Soviet Union to try to destroy the nuclear weapons there to kill thousands of innocent soldiers. On October 22, JFK delivered an 18-minute speech to the United States called unmistakable evidence and explained the situation. He, later on, writes a letter to Khrushchev declaring the disasters that would happen if gone to war with nuclear power weapons. October 23 Khrushchev writes a letter to JFK explaining that his nuclear weapons are only for self-defense. October 24, Khrushchev sent another letter to JFK saying, "you are no longer appealing to the reason, but wish to intimidate us" On October 26, Fidel Castro sent a letter to Khrushchev asking him to launch the missiles already and to attack first. On October 27, a US pilot was shot in Cuba allegedly, and it was self-defense. JFK and Khrushchev agreed that this war was dangerously out of control. October 28 Khrushchev gives up and says that he will remove his weapons.

The USA won the Cuban missile crisis. While the negotiations were happening, the soviet union was approaching a lot more what the USA wanted than what the soviet union wanted from the USA. This led to Khrushchev losing his role for showing weakness to the worldwide humiliation. Khrushchev explained to the Soviet Union that he backed out of Cuba because the USA was not, and the US was angry enough to shoot the missiles. Khrushchev says he backed out too because he wanted to save the human race, leading him to lose his job.

## **Conclusion**

The actual war lasted 13 days of unbreakable tensions without knowing if Khrushchev or JFK would wipe out the human race. Khrushchev was always showing off to JFK with the Berlin wall. Castro was already mad at JFK with the Bay of Pigs, making the forces between Castro and Khrushchev stronger when assessing the winner. It's clear to see that the USA won from Khrushchev backing down the missiles from Cuba, leaving Khrushchev without his position anymore. Since then, the USA did not invade Cuba but established peace.

## **Section C: Reflection**

I had a hard time finding what happened after the Cold War, with most historians only wanting to publish their work of what was happening at the moment. When talking about winning a war that was pure negotiations, it is tough to find what is good information and insufficient information to pursue. For my investigation, I saw a lot of documentaries because that's always helped me understand a lot more than reading, but it does not give you complete information. If I had to compare a professional historian to me, the most significant difference, not including the degree, is that they have more common knowledge about worldwide history at the time, making things easier to connect the dots.

## Bibliography

Andrew, Christopher M.; Gordievsky, Oleg (1991). *KGB: The Inside Story of Its Foreign Operations from Lenin to Gorbachev*. HarperPerennial. ISBN 978-0-06-092109-5.

“Castro and the Cold War.” PBS, Public Broadcasting Service,  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/comandante-cold-war/>.

History.com Editors. “Cold War History.” History.com, A&E Television Networks, 27 Oct. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history](http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history).

“The Cold War.” The Cold War | JFK Library,  
[www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/the-cold-war#:~:text=In%20May%201961%2C%20JFK%20had,support%20the%20South%20Vietnamese%20army](http://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/the-cold-war#:~:text=In%20May%201961%2C%20JFK%20had,support%20the%20South%20Vietnamese%20army).

YouTube, YouTube, 10 Apr. 2015, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uapVCH6hjU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uapVCH6hjU). Accessed 20 Feb. 2022. Mamaux, Alexis. *History of the Americas, 1880-1981*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

“Cold War.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 Feb. 2022,  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War).