

The 1960's

The Kennedy Years Part 2

Nikita Khrushchev

- **Soviet leader** who wanted to take advantage of what he saw as America's weakness
- Disturbed by the attempted invasion at the Bay of Pigs, the Soviets pledged their support to Cuba
- **Decided a year after Bay of Pigs to send nuclear armed missiles to Cuba only 90 miles off the coast of Florida**



U-2

- We found out about it on October 16, 1962, when an **American U-2 spy plane photographed the missile bases** under construction
- Appeared that Khrushchev was trying to bolster Soviet power by positioning missiles so close to the US
- Kennedy was convinced that the missiles in Cuba presented a direct challenge to which he must respond



An Act of War?

- **JFK addressed the nation on TV** telling them there would be a **naval “quarantine”** of the island of Cuba
- Calling it a blockade (which it was) would have been **seen as an act of war**



FINAL

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

5¢

Vol. 44, No. 103 New York 17, N.Y., Tuesday, October 23, 1962 WEATHER: Partly cloudy and cool.

WE BLOCKADE CUBA ARMS

JFK: Blast Reds If Castro Attacks

—Story on Page 2



Faces in a Crisis. Presidential Press Secretary Pierre Salinger tells members of Washington press corps that President Kennedy would address nation via radio and TV last night. The President announced Soviet military buildup in Cuba had turned offensive and U. S. would turn back any ship carrying offensive weapons to Castro. Earlier, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko left International Airport after talk with JFK. See page 2. —Story on Page 2. Other photo: centerfold.

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD
Crisis-Centred Gromyko leaves airport.

On the Verge of War

- President quickly convened top advisers in a series of secret meetings to decide what to do
- Some suggested air strikes to knock out missiles, but brother, Robert, argued against it
- President put US forces on full alert and bombers and missiles were armed with nuclear weapons
- Soldiers prepared to invade Cuba at a moment's notice



Brothers ~ JFK & RFK



13 Days in October

- Over the course of the next 13 days **the Cold War came the closest it ever had to turning into a nuclear war**
- **Nuclear warheads** on both sides were poised and ready for use
- Some close to President thought we should knock out the Soviets missiles
- **MAD (mutually assured destruction)** meant that if one side used them the other would surely retaliate **and both countries would be destroyed**



Cuban Missile Crisis

Kennedy demanded that the Soviets withdraw their missiles

Over the next 2 days Americans awaited a response and **braced for a nuclear war**



Nuclear war avoided

- The crisis came to an end **when Khrushchev had Soviet ships reverse course and then agreed to remove the missiles**
- In exchange **Kennedy would end the quarantine and pledged never again to attempt to invade Cuba**





Phew!!

- “We have won a considerable victory. You and I are still alive.” ~ Kennedy’s Secretary of State commented to him when it was over
- Far more powerful hydrogen bombs had replaced the first atomic weapons, and this was the **closest the superpowers had come to using them**
- Kennedy emerged from the confrontation as a **hero** for standing up to the Soviets and showing that the United States **would not be pushed around**

A Step Toward Peace

- Cuban Missile Crisis led to a number of efforts to reduce the risk of nuclear war
- Kennedy and Khrushchev established a “hot line” between their two nations to allow for immediate discussion in the event of a future crisis
- In summer of ‘63 signed the first nuclear treaty since the development of the atomic bomb
- The Limited Test Ban Treaty banned nuclear testing above ground to eliminate the radioactive fallout that threatened human, animal, and plant life
- Kennedy noted this was “an important first step toward peace, a step toward reason, a step away from war”
- However, both countries continued to create bigger and bigger bombs

November 22nd, 1963

JFK Assassination

- JFK was riding in a convertible in a motorcade in Dallas, TX when 3 shots rang out from a school book depository
- The 2nd bullet struck JFK in the head killing him



The Country is Devastated

- Ask your grandparents where they were when JFK was assassinated and they can probably recall the details like it was yesterday – became a defining moment in the lives of many Americans
- Millions of Americans remained glued to their TV sets for the next four days as the impact of the tragedy sank in
- A year after his greatest moment, JFK was dead
- For many this symbolized the death of the hope and energy that JFK stood for



The assassination that shook the world



Lee Harvey Oswald

- The **accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald** was **killed 2 days later** by a Dallas nightclub owner and small time mobster named *Jack Ruby*
- Occurred while he was being transferred between jails



Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ)

- **Immediately after the assassination JFK's vice president, LBJ, was sworn in aboard Air Force One** while Jackie Kennedy, still wearing her elegant pink dress stained with her husband's blood (wanted the world to see "what they did to my Jack"), looked on



Warren Commission

- A commission **appointed** by LBJ and headed by the Supreme Court Chief Justice, Earl Warren, **to investigate the assassination**
- **Determined that Oswald acted alone**
- Rumors and **conspiracies involving the CIA, Mafia, and Cuba's Castro still exist**



The Kennedy Legend

- Kennedy became a **martyr and a hero** because of his **sudden tragic death**
- As a result of this **many of his social programs** that he was never able to get going **were put into action**



LBJ's "Great Society"

- Like FDR's New Deal it was a **big plan to help society** by providing help to schools, Medicare for those over 65, Medicaid to poor Americans and a "war on poverty"



Civil Rights Act of 1964

- Part of LBJ's Great Society, it **banned segregation and discrimination in public facilities** like restaurants and hotels
- Also prevented employers from hiring people based on race



Johnson Signs Civil Rights Bill Into Law in Ceremony at White House
JOHN H. AVERELL
Los Angeles Times (1927-Carroll File); Jul 3, 1964.
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1967)
pg. 1

Civil Rights Bill Becomes Law

Johnson Signs Civil Rights Bill Into
Law in Ceremony at White House

BY JOHN H. AVERELL
WASHINGTON — President Johnson signed the civil rights bill into law Thursday night with a plea to all Americans to "live the spirit of the law."
The signing of the bill came 4 1/2 hours after the House, by a vote of 289 to 127, passed the bill.
The signing of the bill was the first time since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation that a President has signed a bill into law.
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Civil Rights Act of 1968

- This law (4 years later) **made it illegal to not sell or rent a house to someone based on race**



Chapter 18 Review

- Complete *Key Terms* and *Comprehension* questions on page 560