

1 **Deterrence/brinkmanship**2 **Nuclear deterrence**

- Development of nuclear bombs is occurs in both the United States and Germany during World War Two
- The space race that accompanied the Cold War made these devices even more deadly
 - Sputnik (1957)
 - Race for the moon

3 4 5 **M.A.D.**

Mutual Assured Destruction – if you hit me, hit you so no one wins!

- ICBM: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile – can fly from one continent to another in 30 minutes
- NORAD: North American Aerospace Defense – created to deal with the threat of ICBMs
 - DEW Line – Distant Early Warning system: line of radar stations along the Canadian north to warn in case of missile launch
 - Headquarters: Colorado (under a mountain!!)

6 7 **Five major powers currently have thousands of nuclear warheads**8 9 10 **Brinkmanship**11

◆ Confrontation between the United States, Soviet Union, and

Cuba – ranks along with the Berlin Blockade as one of the major confrontations of the Cold War

- ◆ It is the classic example of brinkmanship, and the closest the world has ever come to a nuclear war
- ◆ Russians call it the Caribbean Crisis because it actually occurred in the Caribbean Ocean, while Cubans call it the October Crisis, as to distinguish it from other crisis they have had with the United States

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- Cuba becomes a socialist nation – looks for protection and trade agreements with the USSR (only happy to oblige in order to create a sphere of influence near the US to counteract US presence in NATO nations in Europe)
- McCarthyism and Bay of Pigs fiasco (1961) plays a role in Kennedy's reaction to Cuban decisions

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15 **The Crisis – Thirteen Days**

- October 8, 1962 – U2 spy plane spots missile bases in Cuba
- Executive Committee of the National Security Council (ExComm) quickly discussed five courses of action:
 - do nothing
 - use diplomatic pressure to get the Soviet Union to remove the missiles
 - an air attack on the missiles
 - a full military invasion
 - the naval blockade of Cuba, which was redefined as a more restrictive quarantine.

- Unanimously, the Joint Chiefs of Staff agreed that a full-scale attack and invasion was the only solution. Kennedy was skeptical and decided on a quarantine

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- Quarantine : “To halt this offensive buildup, a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation and port will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back.” (Kennedy)
 - semantics – a blockade would be an act of war, quarantine is unclear

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- Many secret diplomatic meetings and telegrams back and forth created some confusion
- Confrontations in the UN security council (Soviets kept avoiding the direct questions of the US ambassador to the UN “I’ll wait until hell freezes over”)

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- 19 **“Mr. President, we and you ought not now to pull on the ends of the rope in which you have tied the knot of war, because the more the two of us pull, the tighter the knot will be tied...let us take measures to untie that knot.”**
Khrushchev

20 **The Crisis Ends – détente**

- October 28 – a final agreement is established with help from the United Nations – the missiles in Cuba would be removed in exchange for the removal of missiles in Turkey
- Khrushchev loses face in this conflict and is eventually pushed out of power

- 1963 - A hotline from Moscow to Washington was created to prevent the confusion caused by diplomatic channels not going directly between the leaders, and the Partial Test Ban treaty took a step towards slowing down the nuclear arms race
- The value of using diplomacy was illustrated by this event
 - “We were eyeball to eyeball and the other guy just blinked” – diplomacy or brinkmanship?

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22 **Summary of “Thirteen Days”**