

JFK & THE COLD WAR

Chapter 15 Section 2
USH Honors

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- Identify the factors that contributed to Kennedy's election in 1960.
- Describe the new military policy of the Kennedy administration.
- Summarize the crises that developed over Cuba.
- Explain the Cold War symbolism of Berlin in the early 1960s.





CONTAINING COMMUNISM:

What was the chief concern of America in 1961?

- **The Cold War and the Soviet Union**

How did JFK address these concerns?

- **Increased conventional weapons – providing more options than a nuclear missile**
- **Providing economic aid to Latin American countries**
- **Creating the Peace Corps**

A MORE FLEXIBLE RESPONSE:

Countries that were “developing nations” in 1960 resented wealthy western nations.

- The United States, Great Britain, & France

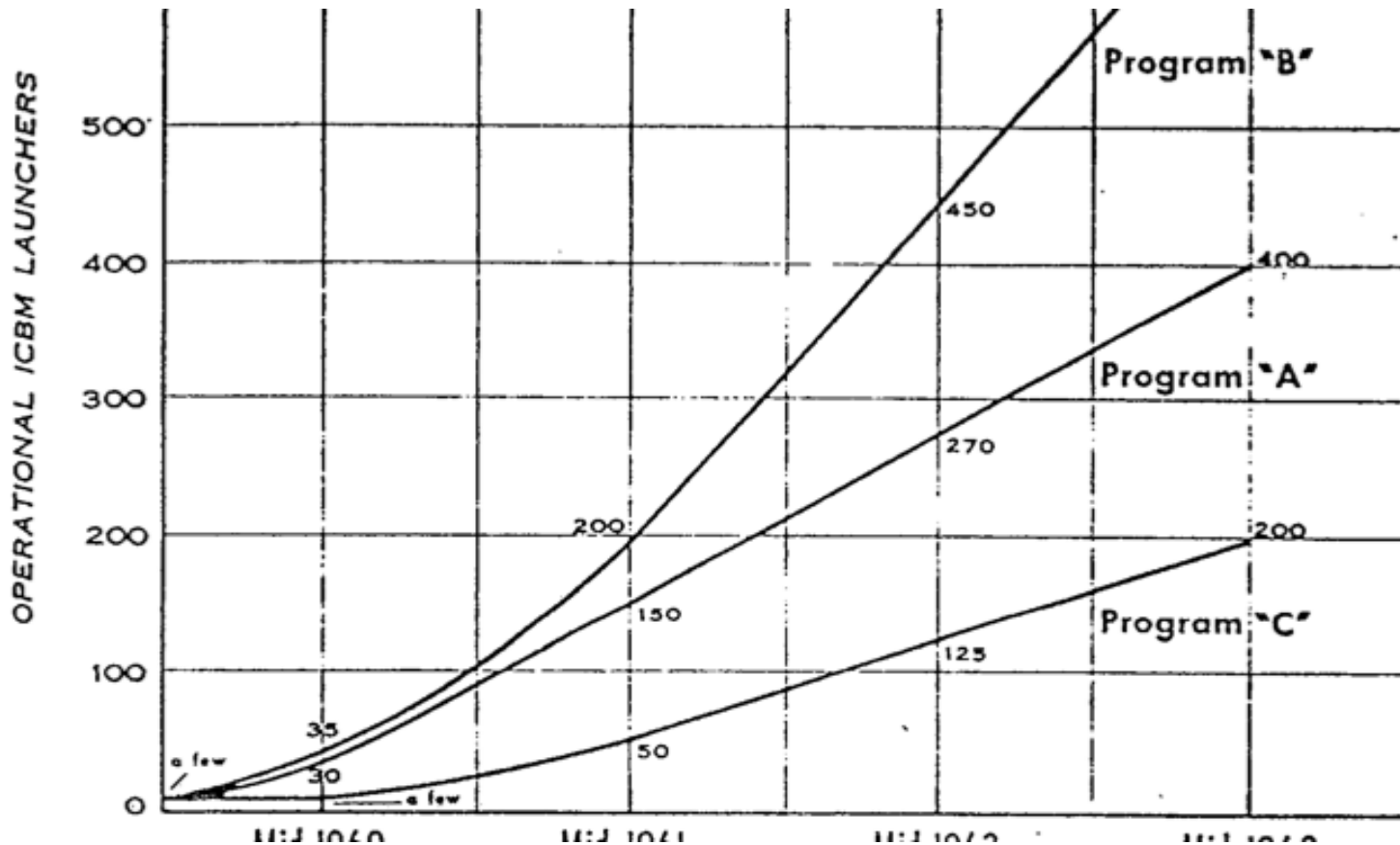
Which nation encouraged this resentment?

- The Soviet Union

Where Eisenhower had used Massive Retaliation, Kennedy wanted a “flexible response”

- Increased military troops
- Use of conventional weapons
- Expanding special forces





THE MISSILE GAP

What was the “missile gap”?

- The perception that the U.S. government trailed the Soviet Union in ballistic missile technology.

Did a “missile gap” actually exist?

- NO! America had a buildup of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICMBs)
- Our missiles were armed with nuclear warheads – the Soviet rockets were shells
- Through the 1960s and 1970s, America would continue the ‘arms race’

Why did we think this?

- The Soviets would parade massive amounts of ballistic missiles through Red Square each year as a show of force.

AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES:

What was America's focus?

- Like presidents from Teddy Roosevelt to Eisenhower, Kennedy would focus on Latin America

Why Latin America?

- The people still lived in extreme poverty – want a better life
- Kennedy promised aid to these countries in his inaugural address.
- Goal: Prevent the spread of Communism here.





THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS

How did JFK begin to increase American connections in Latin America?

- Kennedy proposed the Alliance for Progress.
- Designed to create a “free and prosperous Latin America”

Over a 10-year period, America pledged \$20 billion to help Latin American countries.

- Establish schools
- Create better housing
- Support stable healthcare
- Encourage more fair land distribution

Some of this did help – most rulers used the money to stay in power.



**Peace
Corps**

THE PEACE CORPS

What is the Peace Corps?

- A program to help developing countries

How did this program work?

- Americans were sent into developing countries
- Provided humanitarian services
- Volunteers commit to a two-year term of service

What would they do?

- Build roads
- Teach English
- Develop and build appropriate sewer systems
- Provide medical care

WHO WON THE SPACE RACE?

How did the Space Race impact America in the 1950s and 1960s?

Was Kennedy's reaction justified?

How did landing on the moon impact the Space Race?

Do you think there is still a "Space Race" today?

THE COLD WAR IN SPACE:

What changed America's focus in 1961?

Yuri Gagarin – Soviet cosmonaut was the first person to orbit the earth.

America was losing the space race!

What could America do now?

Kennedy is worried that Communism looks much better than Capitalism.

President Kennedy asked Congress to prioritize NASA and Space Exploration.

1962: John Glenn became the 1st American to orbit the Earth.

By 1969: America landed on the moon.

CRISES OVER CUBA...

Fidel Castro took power in Cuba in 1959 using guerilla warfare measures.

Castro removed US economic supports and formed an alliance with the USSR.

Eisenhower and Castro

- **Eisenhower had supported the training of Cuban exiles to remove Castro**
- **La Brigada (the Cuban exiles) were trained by the CIA**

The Bay of Pigs

- **Kennedy's advisors approved the invasion plans**
- **April 17, 1961, La Brigada landed in Cuba at the Bay of Pigs**
- **Kennedy cancelled air support**
 - **He wanted to keep US involvement a secret**
 - **Disaster struck and La Brigada was defeated**
 - **Most of the invading force were killed or captured**
- **This event was an embarrassment to the Kennedy administration**



JUNE 1961: THE BERLIN WALL GOES UP



THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

Nikita Khrushchev promised to defend Cuba from the U.S.

Summer 1962: Soviet weapons arrived in Cuba...including NUCLEAR warheads.

Kennedy responded with a warning. Soviets denied the weapons were in Cuba.

10/14/62: U2 spy plane photos confirmed that Soviet missile bases were on CUBA!

10/22/62: Kennedy spoke to America confirming the worst fears.

For 6 days, the world faced nuclear war.

Confrontation...occurred at the UN!



UN CONFRONTATION WITH USSR & KENNEDY'S ADDRESS



DEATH OF A PRESIDENT

The events of that day:

- **November 22, 1963:** Kennedy and his wife travel to Texas.
- President chose to ride in an open-air limousine with the Governor and First Lady of Texas.
- President was shot twice
- Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the assassination.

The Warren Commission

- Investigated the death of President Kennedy in 1964
- Found that Oswald acted alone
- **MANY** questions about this finding over the years