Name:	Date:	Hour:

DBQ 9: COLD WAR AND THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, 1962

Historical Background

For 13 days, the Soviet Union and the United States were on the brink of nuclear war. Their hostility was based on the placement of nuclear missile heads in Cuba. The conflict began shortly after the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs Invasion. Nervous about another American attack, Cuba turned to the Soviet Union. In July 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and Cuban leader Fidel Castro reached an arrangement in which ballistic missiles were placed in Cuba in order to prevent American aggression. Meanwhile, in the United States, the government was denying allegations that it had been paying no heed to the placement of nuclear missiles 90 miles away from Florida. To confirm that the Soviet Union and Cuba were indeed a threat, an American U-2 plane captured aerial photographs of various launch sites. As a response, the United States established a military blockade around Cuba. This tactic was used to stop the Soviet Union from bringing nuclear missiles into Cuba. In addition, the United States wanted the Soviet Union to disassemble the current weapons and send them back home. After several excruciating days of negotiating, Khrushchev and President John F. Kennedy came to a decision. The Soviets would remove their ballistic missile heads from Cuba in exchange for the United States promising to never invade Cuba. In addition, the United States would remove weapons they had placed in Italy and Turkey. The threat of nuclear war was subdued.



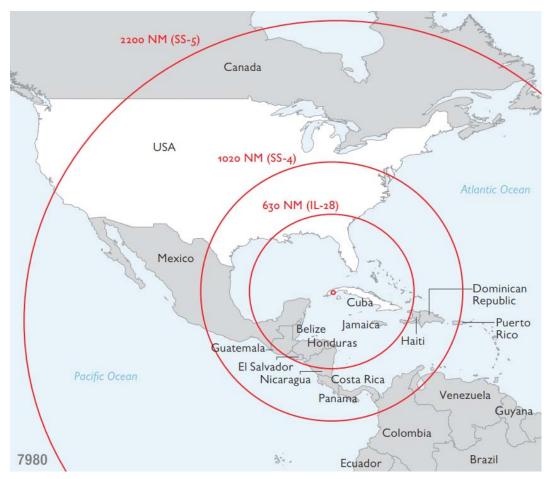
QUESTION: How was the Cuban Missile Crisis a catalyst for probable nuclear war?

The following documents will examine how the Cuban Missile Crisis was a catalyst for probable nuclear war. Analyze each document carefully, and answer the question or questions that follow.

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Document A



Range Map for the Cuban Missile Crisis

1. Explain what the red circles on the map represent.

2. How does this map illustrate a global threat?

Name	:	Date:	Hour:
Docui	ment B		
on the set the set west	have unmistakable evidence tha nat Island Cuba has been made e long-range offensive weapons of peace and security of all of the Ar e missiles against this or any othe tern Hemisphere I call upon Chareckless threat to world peace.	into an important strategic b of sudden mass destruction. mericas. Our objective must b er country. We must secure th	rase by the presence of This is an open threat to be to prevent the use of their withdrawal from the
		John F. Kennedy's Spee	ech to the American People, 1962
1.	According to John F. Kennedy,	what "evidence" has been ga	thered?
2.	How does Kennedy offer a solu	ition to this conflict?	
	-		

Name:	Date:	Hour:

Document C



Soviet Ballistic Missile in Moscow, c. 1959–1962

1.	What threat does possession of ballistic missile heads pose for the rest of the world?
2.	Who are the people pictured in the upper right-hand corner of the photograph? How are these figures connected to the Cuban Missile Crisis?
3.	Is a nuclear threat still possible in our current society? Why or why not?

Name	<u> </u>	Date:	Hour:
Docui	ment D		
moti say t the s	purpose has been to help Cuba, a ives aimed at allowing Cuba to live that Cuba worries you because it shores of the United States. Howe right to demand security for your ify as offensive, while not recogn	ve peacefully and develop a lies at distance of ninety m ever, Turkey lies next to us country and the removal o	as its people desire. You niles across the sea from . Do you believe you have
		Letter from Khrus	shchev to Kennedy, October 26, 1962
1.	Explain the Soviet Union's reaso	oning for providing assistar	nce to Cuba.
2.	According to Khrushchev, why	was the United States worr	ried about Cuba?
3.	How does Khrushchev use Turk	ey to show that the United	States was hypocritical?

Name:	Date:	Hour:

Document E



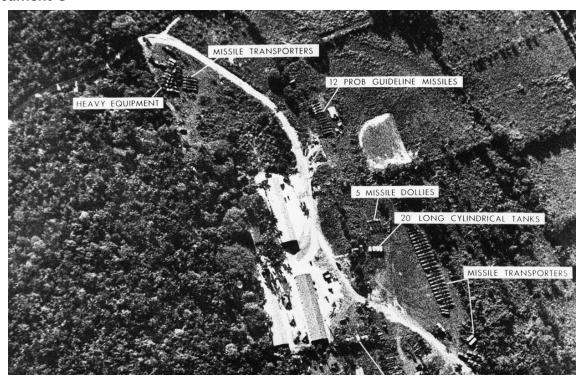
Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev Hug, 1961

Name:	Date:	Hour:
Document F		
Late tonight R. Kennedy invited me to com	ne see him. We talked	alone.
The Cuban crisis, R. Kennedy began, conting received a report that an unarmed Americal reconnaissance flight over Cuba. The milital planes and respond to fire with fire.	an plane was shot dov	vn while carrying out a
"The USA can't stop these flights, because information about the state of construction pose a very serious threat to our national schain reaction will quickly start that will be the essence of the issue of the missile base to get rid of those bases-up to, in the extrepose a great threat to the security of the Ubases, in the course of which Soviet special undoubtedly respond with the same again begin, in which millions of Americans and I we can, I'm sure that the government of the	n of the missile bases in of the missile bases in security. But if we start every hard to stop. The examples in Cuba. The USA governe case, of bombing USA. But in response to allists might suffer, the example to some where in Examples in Examples.	in Cuba, which we believe to fire in response—a e same thing in regard to overnment is determined them, since, I repeat, they the bombing of these Soviet government will urope. A real war will vant to avoid that any way
	Dobrynin's Cable to the Sovie	et Foreign Ministry, October 27, 1962
After the loss of an American reconr requested of the president?	naissance plane, what	had the American military
2. Summarize Robert Kennedy's view of Use evidence from the passage to su	, ,	ear missile bases in Cuba.



Name:	Date:	Hour:
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Document G



U-2 Reconnaissance Photograph of Cuba

1.	Explain what the U.S. observed in this photograph.		
2.	How did this situation affect the Soviet Union? Cuba? The United States?		

Name:	Date:	Hour:
Document H		
I should like you to consider, Mr. Presided planes could also lead to dangerous could it would be better if no cause is given for careful now and refrain from any steps the states involved in the conflict, which provocation for a fateful step. Therefore such steps.	onsequences. And if you do for a dangerous situation to which would not be useful th could only cause irritation	not want this to happen, arise. We must be to the defense of and even serve as a
	Letter from Khrusho	hev to Kennedy, October 28, 1962
1. What warning does Khrushchev	give about continued flight	s over Cuba?
ESSAY TOPIC: How was the 0 war?	Cuban Missile Crisis a cata	lyst for probable nuclear