

Lesson 4

The Cold War Divides the World



Setting the Stage

- **Following World War II, the world's nations were grouped politically into three "worlds." The first was the industrialized capitalist nations, including the United States and its allies. The second was the Communist nations led by the Soviet Union. The Third World consisted of developing nations, often newly independent, who were not aligned with either superpower. These nonaligned countries provided yet another arena for competition between the Cold War superpowers.**

Fighting for the Third World

- The **Third World** nations were located in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.
- They were economically poor and politically unstable.
- This was largely due to a long history of colonialism.
- They also suffered from ethnic conflicts and lack of technology and education.
- Each needed a political and economic system around which to build its society.
- Soviet-style communism and U.S.-style free-market democracy were the main choices

MAJOR STRATEGIES OF THE COLD WAR

FOREIGN AID

The two superpowers tried to win allies by giving financial aid to other nations. For instance, Egypt took aid from the Soviet Union to build the Aswan High Dam.

ESPIONAGE

Fearing the enemy might be gaining the advantage, each side spied on the other. One famous incident was the Soviet downing of a U.S. U-2 spy plane in 1960.

MULTINATIONAL ALLIANCES

To gain the support of other nations, both the Soviet Union and the United States entered into alliances. Two examples of this were NATO and the Warsaw Pact (shown on map above).

PROPAGANDA

Both superpowers used propaganda to try to win support overseas. For example, Radio Free Europe broadcast radio programs about the rest of the world into Eastern Europe.

BRINKMANSHIP

The policy of brinkmanship meant going to the brink of war to make the other side back down. One example was the Cuban Missile Crisis.

SURROGATE OR PROXY WARS

The word *surrogate* means “substitute” and *proxy* means “representing someone else.” Although the United States and the Soviet Union did not fight each other directly, they fought indirectly by backing opposing sides in many smaller conflicts.

Association of Nonaligned Nations

- Other developing nations also needed assistance. They became important players in the Cold War competition between the United States, the Soviet Union, and later, China.
- But not all **Third World** countries wished to play a role in the Cold War. For example, India vowed to remain neutral. Indonesia, a populous island nation in Southeast Asia, also struggled to stay uninvolved.
- In 1955, it hosted many leaders from Asia and Africa at the Bandung Conference. They met to form what they called a **“third force”** of independent countries, or nonaligned nations.
- Some nations, such as India and Indonesia, maintained their neutrality. Others took sides with the superpowers or played competing sides against each other.
- For example, Egypt first accepted Soviet aid to help build the **Aswan High Dam** and Soviet weapons for its conflicts with Israel. Later, Egypt switched allegiance to the United States following the 1973 Yom Kippur War

Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution

- In the 1950s, Cuba was ruled by an unpopular dictator, **Fulgencio Batista**, who had U.S. support.
- Cuban resentment led to a popular revolution, which overthrew Batista in January 1959.
- A young lawyer named **Fidel Castro** led that revolution. At first, many people praised Castro for bringing social reforms to Cuba (free education and healthcare) and improving the economy.
- Castro nationalized U.S.-owned sugar mills and refineries. In response, President Eisenhower ordered an embargo on all trade with Cuba. Castro then turned to the Soviets for economic and military aid.

Che Guevara and Fidel Castro



The Bay of Pigs Invasion

- **President John F. Kennedy** and the U.S. Government attempted to bring down the communist regime in Cuba by supporting an invasion attempt by Cuban exiles who were trained by the U.S. military.
- In 1960, the **CIA** began to train anti-Castro Cuban exiles. In April 1961, they invaded, landing in southwestern Cuba at the **Bay of Pigs**. However, the United States did not provide the hoped-for air support.
- The **Bay of Pigs Invasion** quickly ended in failure when Castro's forces captured the invaders.
- Fidel Castro's popularity in Cuba soared after defeating the U.S. sponsored invasion.
- The U.S. reacted by imposing a **trade embargo** on Cuba that remains in effect today.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

- The failed Bay of Pigs invasion convinced Soviet leader **Nikita Khrushchev** that the United States would not resist Soviet expansion in Latin America.
- So, in July 1962, Khrushchev secretly began to build **42 missile sites** in Cuba. In October, an American spy plane discovered the sites.
- President **John F. Kennedy** declared that missiles so close to the U.S. mainland were a threat. He demanded their removal and also announced a naval blockade of Cuba.
- **Castro** protested that his country was being used as a pawn and that he did not intend for Cuba to get involved in the Cold War. But Castro and Cuba were deeply involved.
- Kennedy's demand for the removal of Soviet missiles put the United States and the Soviet Union on a nuclear collision course. People around the world feared nuclear war. Fortunately, Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles in return for a U.S. promise not to invade Cuba.

Soviet Nuclear Missiles in Cuba



Launch Site 2 in Cuba





Florida
(90 Miles)

Bahamas

San Cristobal
MRBM Site

Havana

Sagua La Grande
MRBM Site

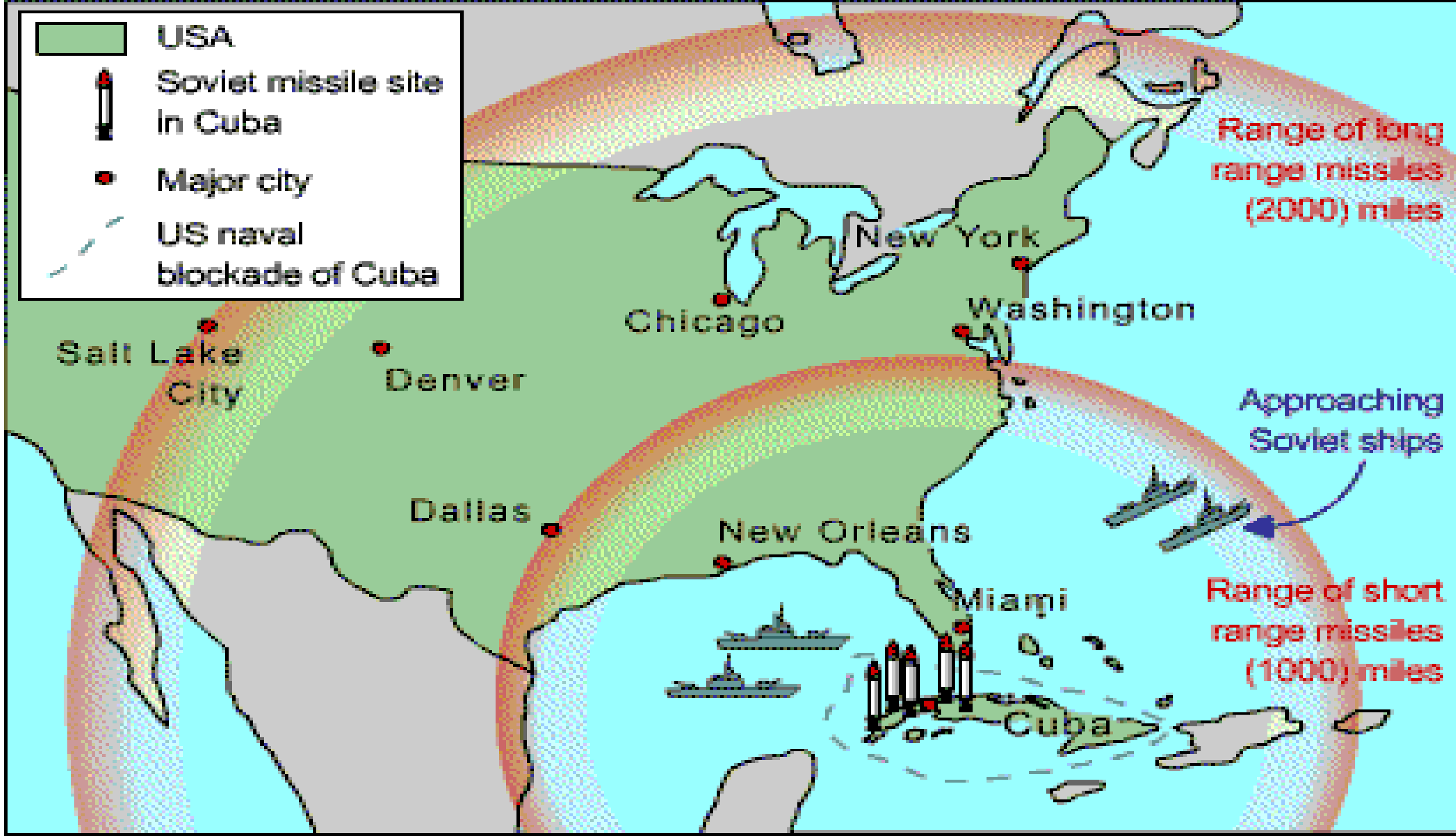
Guanajay
IRBM Site

Bay of Pigs

Caribbean Sea

Guantanamo Bay

	USA
	Soviet missile site in Cuba
	Major city
	US naval blockade of Cuba



Range of long
range missiles
(2000) miles

Approaching
Soviet ships

Range of short
range missiles
(1000) miles



IRBM

MRBM

SAN FRANCISCO

DALLAS

WASHINGTON D.C.

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Timeline of Events

<p>1. 1959 – Fidel Castro</p>	<p>1. How did Revolution affect Cuba (socially, economically, politically)?</p>	<p>1. Answer:</p>
<p>2. 1961 – Castro turns back Cuban Invasion at Bay of Pigs.</p>	<p>2. Why did the United States secretly organize the invasion?</p>	<p>2. Answer:</p>
<p>3. 1962 – United States demands that Soviets withdraw nuclear missiles from Cuba.</p>	<p>3. How was the Cuban Missile Crisis finally resolved?</p>	<p>3. Answer:</p>

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<p>4. 1979 – Communist Sandinista rebels overthrow dictatorship in Nicaragua.</p>	<p>4. What were the social, political, and economic consequences of the civil war in Nicaragua?</p>	<p>4. Answer:</p>
<p>5. 1981 – Iran releases U.S. Hostages</p>	<p>5. Why did the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran dislike the United States?</p>	<p>5. Answer:</p>
<p>6. 1988 – United Nations cease-fire ends between Iran and Iraq.</p>	<p>6. What role did the United States play in this Muslim War?</p>	<p>6. Answer:</p>
<p>7. 1989 – The Soviet Union withdraws its forces from Afghanistan.</p>	<p>7. How was the Soviet Union's war in Afghanistan similar to the U.S. war in Vietnam?</p>	<p>7. Answer:</p>