

The Cold War**Lesson 5****Mounting Tensions in the Sixties****Key Terms and People**

John F. Kennedy 35th president of the United States

flexible response Policy of using nonnuclear weapons to fight a war

domino theory Theory that one country falling to Communist influence would quickly lead to other countries in the same area falling, too

Lyndon B. Johnson 36th president of the United States

Fidel Castro Ruler of Cuba

Berlin Wall Barrier built to keep East Germans from fleeing to West Berlin

hot line Direct phone line between the White House and the Kremlin

Limited Test Ban Treaty Treaty that barred nuclear testing in the atmosphere

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Treaty in which nuclear powers agreed not to sell or give nuclear weapons to any other country

Before You Read

In the last lesson you read about the increase of Cold War tensions. In this lesson you will read about how the Kennedy administration dealt with Soviet confrontations.

As You Read

Provide details for a timeline on events and crises that the Kennedy administration faced.

**A NEW MILITARY POLICY;
CRISES OVER CUBA****What two crises involving Cuba did Kennedy face?**

Improvements in the space program were supported by President **John F. Kennedy**. He thought the Soviets were ahead of the United States in technological developments. He also believed that they had the loyalties of economically less-developed third-world countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Beginning in 1961 Kennedy focused

on foreign affairs. He supported a policy called **flexible response**. This policy called for the use of conventional weapons rather than nuclear weapons in the event of a war. Conventional weapons included jets, tanks, missiles, and guns. To build more conventional weapons, Kennedy increased defense spending. He hoped that this would reduce the risk of nuclear war.

The developing conflict in Vietnam threatened to lead to war. This conflict had been continuing for more than a decade. Vietnam was divided. A

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Communist government was in power in the north, and a democratically elected government controlled the south.

Kennedy wanted to stop any further spread of communism in Southeast Asia. His policy was based on the **domino theory**, the theory that says that one country falling to Communist influence will quickly lead to other countries in the same area falling as well. After Kennedy's death, **Lyndon B. Johnson** became president and continued Kennedy's policies. He, too, was determined to contain communism in Vietnam, and ended up sending U.S. soldiers there.

President Kennedy faced a Communist government close to the United States in Cuba. Cuba's leader was **Fidel Castro**. Castro had seized power in 1959. Soon after that, he declared himself a Communist. He then formed ties with the Soviet Union.

The United States was wary of Castro, but it did recognize Cuba's government. However, Castro seized three American and British oil refineries, and relations worsened. Castro also broke up commercial farms into communes to be worked by peasants. American sugar companies controlled this cropland, so the United States established trade barriers against Cuban sugar.

Castro used Soviet aid and political repression to put his reforms into place. Many Cubans went into exile and came to the United States.

American leaders were afraid of a Communist government so close to the United States. Kennedy approved a plan to remove Castro from power. The plan called for Cuban exiles to invade Cuba and overthrow Castro. The U.S. government would supply air support for the exiles.

The attack failed. Many exiles were captured. The failed invasion became

known as the Bay of Pigs. It left the Kennedy administration greatly embarrassed.

A year later, the United States and Cuba clashed again. Pictures from U.S. spy planes revealed that the Soviets were building nuclear missile bases in Cuba. Some bases already contained missiles ready to launch. These weapons could be aimed at the United States

President Kennedy demanded that the Soviets remove the missiles. In October 1962 he surrounded Cuba with U.S. Navy ships. These ships forced Soviet vessels trying to reach Cuba to turn around. A tense standoff followed. It appeared that war might break out. However, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev finally agreed to remove the missiles.

This standoff, which became known as the Cuban missile crisis, damaged Khrushchev's prestige in the Soviet Union and the world. Kennedy also endured criticism. Some Americans thought Kennedy had acted too boldly and nearly started a nuclear war. Others claimed he hadn't acted boldly enough. These critics believed that Kennedy should have invaded Cuba and ousted Castro.

1. Name the two Cuban crises that the Kennedy administration faced.

U.S.-SOVIET TENSIONS

How did the Americans and Soviets try to ease tensions?

In 1961 Kennedy faced a growing problem in Berlin. The city was still divided. East Berlin was under Communist control. West Berlin was under the control of Great Britain,

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France, and the United States. By 1961 almost 3 million East Germans had fled into West Berlin.

Khrushchev threatened to sign a treaty with East Germany that would block all air and land routes into West Berlin. Kennedy warned the Soviet leader against such action. As a result, Khrushchev changed his plan. Instead, he built a large concrete barrier along the border between East and West Berlin. It was known as the **Berlin Wall**. It prevented any more East Germans from fleeing to West Berlin. The construction of the Berlin Wall heightened Cold War tensions and became a symbol of Communist oppression.

Despite their battles, Kennedy and Khrushchev did attempt to reach agreements. They established a **hot line** between their two nations. This special telephone hookup connected Kennedy and Khrushchev. It allowed them to talk directly when a crisis arose. The two leaders also agreed to a **Limited Test Ban Treaty**. This treaty barred nuclear testing in the atmosphere.

By the late 1960s the world feared nuclear catastrophe. The United Kingdom, France, and China also had tested nuclear weapons. Some world leaders feared what would happen as developing nations developed weapons, too. So world leaders agreed to try to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. Representatives from more than 60 countries signed the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**. Nuclear powers

agreed not to sell or give nuclear weapons to any other country. Non-nuclear powers promised not to acquire such weapons.

2. Name two ways the United States and Soviet Union worked to ease tensions between them.

THE SPACE RACE CONTINUES

Why did the Americans and Soviets compete in space exploration?

In the 1950s the Soviets had launched the first artificial satellite. Americans did the same shortly after. Then, in 1961 the Soviets launched a person into orbit around the earth. President Kennedy felt this was a challenge, so he pledged that the nation would put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. First, however, the United States successfully launched a man, Alan Shepard, into space. Then, America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) constructed facilities to aid space exploration. And on July 20, 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon. The United States had surpassed the Soviets!

3. Why was it so important for the United States to be the first to send a person to the moon?

Lesson 5, *continued*

Provide information for the timeline by answering questions on crises or events that occurred during the 1960s.

1960	Alignment of Cuba with the Soviet Union	→	1. How did the domino theory influence Kennedy's foreign policy in Cuba?
1961	Bay of Pigs	→	2. What were the results of the Bay of Pigs invasion?
	Construction of the Berlin Wall	→	3. Why was the Berlin Wall built?
1962	Cuban missile crisis	→	4. What were the effects of the Cuban missile crisis?
1963	Installation of hot line	→	5. Why was the hot line installed?
	Negotiation of Limited Test Ban Treaty/Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty	→	6. What would the Limited Test Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty eventually do?