

STANDPOINTS

The Cuban Missile Crisis

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

Different people see events differently, depending on their standpoint. For each of these events leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis, explain/debate how it might have been received in America, Russia and Cuba at the time, and interpreted by traditionalist and revisionist historians later.

	The US National Security Council	The Soviets	The Cubans	A 'traditionalist' historian	A 'revisionist' historian
August 1957: The USSR launched an ICBM – it had caught up with the USA in the arms race.					
January 1959: Fidel Castro overthrew Batista's pro-American (but corrupt and repressive) government in Cuba.					
January 1960: Castro made a trade agreement with Russia (which agreed to buy all Cuba's sugar).					
May 1960: The USSR shot down a US spy-plane, then publicly caught out the Americans lying about it.					
October 1960: The USA punished Cuba by stopping all trade.					
April 1961: Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth – Russia was winning the space race.					
April 1961: The CIA-financed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba was easily defeated; the USA was humiliated.					
August 1961: The Russians built the Berlin Wall, taking the USA by surprise.					