Cuban Missile Crisis
Sneaky, Sneaky

- Angry that US has missiles in TUR, GRE, UK
- Khrushchev’s Motives (Blight & Welch qtd. 495)
  - US Midterms coming (Nov. 1962)
  - Missile Gap
  - Bargaining Chip
  - Berlin
  - China
  - Defense of Cuba
  - Domestic victory
  - Get even
Why did Khrushchev Do It? (496-498)

- Hurt US, but reality that US would destroy USSR
- Strategic Parity
- Adventure? (Burlatsky)
- Anticipated no JFK Reaction
Why Does Castro Agree? (499-500)

- Capitalism vs. Communism
- USSR troop presence
- Sharing the risk
- Should he have agreed?
When Was US Aware? (500-504)

- 8/22/1962 – McCone
- 8/29 – U2 flyover → see SAMs
- 8/31 – JFK says sources invalid (U2 results too late)
  - Nixon’s response: Blockade Cuba!
  - Khrushchev doesn’t understand why JFK is rejecting claims he must have known to be true.
- 9/3 – JFK speech; Beschloss analysis (503)
  - Kagan on Khrushchev’s miscalculations
Khrushchev & Kennedy Lie (505-507)

- Promises JFK he won't put offensive missiles in CUB or mess with the elections.
- Gambler who made his move.
- Gromyko says at UN that US is going to invade CUB & any resistance to USSR in CUB meant war.
  - Why?
- US lies on TV about evidence; Didn't want to believe it.
- Hard evidence revealed to JFK on 10/16.
What options were available?
With whom did JFK agree/disagree?
What did they agree upon?
Why did they think Khrushchev was doing this?
What did Volkogonov & Schlesinger say the effects were?
What confused McNamara & JFK?
What were SIOP, Minimal Deterrence & MAD & what does Kagan think about JFK’s & NK’s ability to follow them?
How to Remove a Cuban Missile
(513-520)

- What were the options? What were the issues?
  - Stevenson
  - McNamara
  - RFK
  - JFK
  - Taylor
  - Sorenson
  - Russell
Blockade (521-522)

• Should JFK have told Congress before he did? Citizens?

• Are there any other times that could be argued are as close to a nuclear war as Cuban Missile Crisis?

• How did Khrushchev respond?