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91438



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
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QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
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SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

Level 3 History, 2015

91438 Analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event

2.00 p.m. Friday 20 November 2015

Credits: Six

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Analyse, in depth, the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Comprehensively analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Write ONE essay in this booklet.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Excellence

TOTAL

08

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event that you have studied, using the essay task below.

A historical event is a specific event in time.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Your essay should be at least 800 words long.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

ESSAY TASK

Analyse the underlying and immediate causes of a significant historical event, and the important short-term and long-term consequences of that event for people's lives.

Historical event: _____

Begin your essay here:

A significant historical event in world history is the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, a two week period in which the prospect of nuclear war between nations ~~seemed~~ seemed inevitable. There are a range of underlying and immediate causes of this crisis, including The Cold War, the Arms Race, deterioration of relationships between the United States and Cuba, US fear of communism, the Bay of Pigs Campaign and the U2 spy plane of 1962. The threat of nuclear ~~mutual~~ global destruction had a huge impact on the lives of people all around the world, which can be seen in consequences such as the relief of no nuclear war, the change in perception of the world leaders involved; ~~the~~ the realisation of ~~the~~ American vulnerability and general global fragility with regard to nuclear weaponry, and ultimately the "Detente" phase of the Cold War.

A fundamental underlying cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis is the Cold War. It is generally accepted amongst historians that the term "Cold War" refers to the period of time between the end of the Second World War in 1945 to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991; during which bad relations between the United States (U.S) and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) caused three stages of interaction: the isolation period, the confrontational period and the detente phase. The Cold War was a

battle for supremacy between US and USSR, as each were growing weary of one another and didn't want them to infrude on their own "spheres of influence." Communism was taking hold in Asia and Eastern Europe under the influence of Joseph Stalin and his communist dictatorship) whilst the US was trying to promote Capitalism in the West. This struggle for dominance of ideals was particularly heightened by the splitting of Germany and Berlin between the victors of the Second World War, and only made relations between the two states worse. This is a fundamental underlying cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis because had there not been this conflict between the two Superpowers, US and USSR, events such as the Berlin Crisis, the Arms Race and Space Race never would have occurred, all of which were precursor events to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Another underlying cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the Arms Race. The Cold War had set the stage for the competition between the US and USSR, and they battled to dominate each other in many ways, including the Space Race but, more importantly, the Arms Race. Both states were racing to develop better conventional and nuclear weapons to show their strength and supremacy. This included the development of hydrogen bombs, underwater-based missiles, intermediate range and inter-continental ballistic missiles. ~~As well as blinding~~ This concept of consistently trying to out-do each other

Known amongst historians as "one-upmanship" and increased the dangerous element of this growing competition between the US and USSR as it made both leaders less hesitant to use the weapons they had created, ensuring mutually-assured total destruction should the nations come to military blows. It is a vital cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis because had the USSR not developed nuclear weaponry, they never would have supplied Cuba which was the base problem of the whole crisis.

A third underlying cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the change of political leaders in Cuba, which caused the simultaneous deterioration of the Cuban-American relationship and improvement of the Cuban-Soviet relationship. A strong economic and political relationship had been founded in Cuba by America since 1898, when the USA helped Cuba gain its' independence from Spain. In 1902 the US agreed to protect Cuba from further invasion as long as they promoted Capitalist values. This was known as the Platt Agreement and granted the US a naval base in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba as well as huge economic interests in industries from sugar to agriculture to oil. This relationship remained positive through the corrupt, oppressive reign of General Batista, who benefitted greatly from the large American economic interest in Cuba. However, he

was overthrown by ~~François~~ Fidel Castro, who was supported by the general public that preferred him over the corrupt and oppressive ~~dictator~~ Batista.

Initially, Castro claimed he was not a communist, but the US remained suspicious of this new leader in the south. Castro's request for money from the IMF (International Monetary Fund) was denied as well as at the OAS. Castro claimed he was trying to improve Cuba with the money he sought, and instead began making economic reforms in Cuba that confirmed his communist alignment, including the nationalisation of banks, the expropriation of land and the seizure of massive American companies like Texaco, Esso Oil and their industrial land. The relationship between the US and Cuba was deteriorating quickly, so in an attempt to prevent this, the US placed an ~~economic~~ economic embargo on Cuba, refusing to trade everything except medicine.

All this did was spark the relationship between Cuba and the USSR, who saw an opportunity to seize an ally right at America's doorstep. A trade agreement was made between Cuba and the USSR: they would take 5 million tons of sugar, which was one of Cuba's main industries, for fuel. Any effort from America to reconcile with Cuba only encouraged Castro to side more with Khrushchev, the Russian leader.

This is a very important cause as the conflict between US and USSR had suddenly moved much closer, a mere 190km to the south of the US. This made many Americans, especially those in power, nervous and scared.

An underlying cause as a result of these three precursor causes was the growing US fear of communism. Now that the USSR was trading with Cuba, a type of communist scare-mongering began in the US. Senator Joseph McCarthy headed the House of Un-American Activities Committee, which dedicated its time to investigating potential communists in all workplaces, from Hollywood directors to police officers to bankers. Hundreds of people ~~were~~ lost their jobs just from the stigma of being investigated, and the execution of communist spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg only ramped up the atmosphere of domestic paranoia that was growing. Potential communists were denied work and had revoked passports, and this scare-mongering led to the American people frantically buying supplies in preparation for the war they were sure was coming. The growing fear of communism in the US is very important as the American government felt more compelled to take action against communist states in order to comfort its' internal fear.

An immediate

An immediate cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion of 1961. This plan was part of President Eisenhower's doctrine, and was inherited by John F. Kennedy when he took office. Although Kennedy approved the ~~military~~ attack, his office would not participate and granted only air support. The CIA trained 1400 Cuban exiles and refugees who had fled from Castro's regime, and funded the invasion.

of the Bay of Pigs. The invasion was expected to succeed with the help of local Cubans participating in Guerilla attacks and Kennedy's air strikes. However, a time mistake meant that the air strike was an hour late on the day of the invasion, and the Cubans local to the area were fiercely supportive of Castro's government as he had funded a fix-up of the local environment and village. On the first day of the attack, 3/4 of the exiled Cubans had been captured, and the mission had failed. The Bay of Pigs invasion is one of the most important causes of the Cuban Missile Crisis as this was a humiliation for Kennedy's office. Khrushchev had previously been embarrassed by the Berlin Crisis, and both of these events in the confrontational phase of the Cold War meant that neither state was willing to back down again: Kennedy would consider a full-scale invasion. This gave Khrushchev legitimate reason to arm Cuba, even though he initially denied doing so.

The final, most immediate cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the U2 spy plane discovery on 13th October 1962. A spy plane sent over Cuba found evidence of nuclear missiles in Cuba as well as 43,000 Russian soldiers. This solidified the US fears that Cuba was aligned with USSR, and intensified the fear of nuclear destruction. It is an immediate cause as it was the discovery that sparked the event.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a two-week event that took place from 16th - 28th October. Both the US and USSR had nukes placed in countries close enough to severely damage their competitor: US, in Turkey, and USSR in Cuba. From the 16th onwards, the executive committee (ExComm) of Kennedy's office met everyday to discuss what to do. Kennedy was under serious military pressure to invade, but sought a diplomatic solution. A naval blockade was placed around Cuba to prevent USSR ships from arming her, and these ships were turned around. On 26th Kennedy received a letter from Khrushchev, detailing that he would have the nukes removed from Cuba if the US promised never to invade. On 27th a second letter was received, adding that Kennedy must also have his nukes removed from Turkey. On this same day a spy plane was shot down over Cuba, killing its American pilot. This caused global tension as both Castro and Khrushchev were worried for Kennedy's reaction. He agreed to both Khrushchev's terms (the second letter in secret) and the crisis came to an end.

The most important short-term consequence of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the worldwide sense of relief at no nuclear war. The Secretary of State in US Robert McNamara described the world in those two weeks of the crisis as "in the breathe of war", and

Extra space if required.
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

people were panicking. The sense of overwhelming relief that there would be no nuclear war is hard for us discussing the event 53 years later to comprehend, but news reports from all over the world immediately following the Crisis show masses of celebrations. Nuclear war between the US and USSR would have annihilated a good portion of the world and its people, so this consequence is easily the most significant to the people as nobody else would die.

Another short-term series of consequences were the changes in perception of the three leaders involved in the Crisis: Kennedy, Castro and Khrushchev.

- Kennedy was redeemed in the eyes of many Western countries as the hero who had saved America from nuclear war, and he was immensely popular amongst Americans. Orthodox historians such as Sorenson and Neustadt describe him as a hero. ~~However~~, and his assassination in 1963 was deeply devastating. Post-revisionist historians, however, claim that he was arrogant and do not see him in the same light. Hagman said: "he turned a political problem with political solutions into a near-nuclear crisis." Other historians like Horowitz claim it was with his same arrogance that the US failed so miserably years later in Vietnam. Kennedy was

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once again redeemed by post-revisionist historians who had access to tapes from the ExComm meetings in 1962. This new evidence proved that Kennedy was deeply opposed to the military responses his committee gave him, and that the final action of ignoring Khrushchev's second letter was quite genius. Kennedy is praised as a hero today.

- Castro, too, received a boost in popularity after the Cuban Missile Crisis. Soviet historian Pleshakov described him as a "revolutionary hero" who stood up to the mighty America and won. The people of Cuba loved him, and to this day he remains, in effect, the leader of Cuba as he willingly stood down to let his brother Raul take power, due to old age. He is still adored by many Cubans.

- Khrushchev returned to the USSR where he was shamed and ridiculed for "stepping down" having gone face-to-face with the US and lost. He also lost the respect of Chinese leader Mao, who already modelled himself on Stalin and disliked Khrushchev. This deterioration in favour for Khrushchev ultimately led to his replacement by Brezhnev in 1963, who worked towards improving the completely broken Sino-Soviet relationship. This issue resolved itself in the 70's when Mao reached out to both superpowers as he did not want enemies in both.

Another short-term consequence of the Cuban Missile Crisis that had an impact on people's lives was the realisation of the fragility and vulnerability of the US' security. The US had previously been viewed as strong economically and militarily. This viewpoint was changed following the Cuban Missile Crisis. This led to reforms in budgeting, resulting in the US currently having the highest military budget in the world. Historians have likened the feeling post-Crisis to the feeling post-9/11 wherein everybody was in shock that something so horrible could happen to mighty America, and policies were changed in air transport and navy as a result. It could be argued that the Cuban Missile Crisis contributed to the high level of internal security in USA.

A long term consequence of the Cuban Missile Crisis that has had impact on the lives of people all over the globe was the realisation of the dangers of nuclear war. World leaders entered the "detente" phase of the Cold War, in which treaties were being made to ensure that the world never saw another incident like the Cuban Missile Crisis. This has been achieved through the Non Proliferation Treaty of 1968 ~~which bans the sharing of knowledge between~~ countries about nuclear weapons and how to make them, and the Test Ban Treaty of 1964 which banned atmospheric, underground and space testing of nuclear (pto)

weaponry. This treaty in particular had monumental impact on the lives of New Zealanders, as the Greenpeace protests of atmospheric testing carried out by France was what led to the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior in 1985. This shocked New Zealanders, as it was the first real act of terrorism committed against us.

The final, long term consequence of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the "Detente" phase of the Cold War. The US and USSR realised that their competition almost ~~led~~ led to mutually ~~dest~~ destruction, and began to improve communications between one another. This included a direct hotline communication between the two, and meant also that the USSR could spend less money on their military budget. This had good impact on the people of the USSR as their economy was stagnating, and the money not being spent on military budget was instead put into improving the quality of life of the Russian people. The Detente phase of the Cold War was the era of peace, which continued right up until 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed. Not long after, they invaded Afghanistan, which in the opinion of some historians began the "Second Cold War" that we are in now. The rocky relationships between the US and USSR continue to affect the lives of people in both countries today.

Although the Cuban Missile Crisis happened 53 years ago, the consequences still affect people today. A complex layer of underlying causes - the Cold War, Arms Race and the change of political leaders in Cuba - led to immediate causes - the Bay of Pigs invasion and U2 spy plane discovery - which ultimately caused the nuclear standoff. The consequences, both short term - the worldwide sense of relief at no nuclear war, the change in perception of the leaders involved and change in Sino-Soviet relations, - and long term - the realisation of global vulnerability leading to treaties - have been significant, and I can only hope we remember our world's past history as we continue on into the troubled times ahead.

Topic	Grade	Comment
Cuban Missile Crisis	E8	Comprehensive and insightful analysis. Persuasive argument with structured evaluation of causes (Cold War, Arms Race, Cuban-US relationship, US fear of Communism, Bay of Pigs and U2 spy-plane discovery) and consequences (relief of no nuclear war, change in perception of Kennedy/Khrushchev, realization of vulnerability of nuclear weapons, Detente). Understands complexity of the event and uses a range of detailed supporting evidence.