



Crisis Diplomacy

The Cuban Missile Crisis

February 10, 2015

Today's Agenda

- 1. Roadmap.**
- 2. The Cuban Missile Crisis in perspective.**
- 3. Short paper expectations.**

Where We've Been

- **What is diplomacy?**
- **Diplomacy in international relations theory**
- **Bargaining and threats to use force**
- **Deterrence and the power to hurt**
- **Spiral models and the security dilemma**

Where We're Going

- **Testing deterrence theory**
- **Alliances**
- **Domestic politics**
- **Peace**

The **Cuban Missile Crisis** in perspective

What Is Diplomacy?

Which aspects of the crisis were *diplomacy*, and which were *force*?

What Is Diplomacy?

- **Diplomacy**
 - **U.S.–Soviet exchanges**
 - **Placement of the missiles in Cuba**
 - **Blockade?**
- **Force**
 - **Blockade?**

Diplomacy in International Relations Theory

How did secrecy and publicity shape how the crisis played out?

Diplomacy in International Relations Theory

- **Secrecy**
 - **Soviet movement of missiles**
 - **Assurances about Jupiter missiles in Turkey**
- **Publicity**
 - **Kennedy statements prior to and during crisis**

Bargaining and Threats to Use Force

Were there any demands backed by a threat of force?

Rational Deterrence Theory

Which threats were *credible*, and which weren't?

Did either side engage in *brinkmanship*?

Rational Deterrence Theory

- **Credibility**
 - U.S. deterrence failure?
 - U.S. compellence success?
 - Soviet deterrence success?
 - Soviet compellence failure?
- **Brinkmanship**
 - Placement of missiles
 - Blockade

The Spiral Model

Were the outcomes of threats consistent with deterrence theory?

Or did they set off a security dilemma?

The Spiral Model

"If Cuba was 'lost,' Khrushchev remarked, 'I knew it would have been a terrible blow to Marxism-Leninism. It would gravely diminish our stature throughout the world, but especially in Latin America" (p. 84).

The Spiral Model

"It seems to me my press statement was so *clear* about how we *wouldn't* do anything under these conditions, and under the conditions that we *would*. He must know that we're going to find out. So it seems to me he just ...' and then Kennedy's voice trailed off" (p. 81).

Short Paper Expectations

- **Make an argument and make it clearly**
- **Back up the argument**
- **Consider alternatives**
- **Be academically honest**

For Next Time

- **Finish reading *Essence of Decision***

Image Sources

— MRBM site: **Wikimedia Commons**