**1. Military Resources and Capabilities**

**Troop Strength:**

* The **Soviet Union had over 3.5 million active-duty personnel** in its military.
* **Cuba had approximately 300,000 military personnel**, including militias.
* **Soviet forces in Cuba included around 42,000 military personnel**, along with nuclear and conventional forces.

**Equipment and Technology:**

* **Soviet medium-range ballistic missiles (MRBMs) and intermediate-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs) were deployed in Cuba**, capable of striking major U.S. cities.
* **Cuba had Soviet-supplied tanks, artillery, and aircraft** for conventional defense.
* **Soviet submarines and naval vessels were stationed near Cuba** to support operations.

**Logistics and Supply Chains:**

* **Soviet ships transported nuclear warheads, missile launchers, and support equipment to Cuba**.
* **The supply chain was disrupted by the U.S. naval blockade**, delaying additional military reinforcements.
* **Fuel and food supplies were sufficient in the short term**, but a prolonged conflict could have created shortages.

**Intelligence and Surveillance:**

* **Soviet intelligence services (KGB) operated in Cuba**, monitoring U.S. military activity.
* **Limited aerial reconnaissance capabilities** compared to the U.S.
* **Relied on Cuban networks and local support for intelligence gathering**.

**Cyber Warfare:**

* Not applicable during the 1960s.

**Nuclear Capabilities:**

* The **Soviet Union had around 3,000 nuclear warheads**, including **land-based ICBMs, submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and strategic bombers**.
* **Cuba hosted nuclear-capable Soviet missiles**, creating a **forward-deployed nuclear threat** to the U.S.
* **Second-strike capability was less developed than the U.S. at the time**.

**2. Economic Resources**

**Defense Budget:**

* **The Soviet Union allocated significant resources to military spending**, though it lagged behind U.S. military expenditures.
* **Cuba relied heavily on Soviet economic aid and military support**.

**Industrial Base:**

* **The Soviet Union had a strong industrial base**, capable of producing nuclear weapons, tanks, aircraft, and warships.
* **Cuba had a limited industrial base**, mainly relying on agriculture and Soviet imports.

**Resource Availability:**

* **The Soviet Union controlled vast reserves of oil, gas, and minerals**, ensuring military sustainability.
* **Cuba was dependent on Soviet oil and food imports**, making it vulnerable to blockades.

**Economic Resilience:**

* The **Soviet economy was centrally planned**, allowing full mobilization for war if needed.
* **Cuba’s economy was fragile**, and the U.S. blockade could have severely impacted its long-term stability.

**3. Geographic and Environmental Factors**

**Terrain:**

* **Cuba’s tropical terrain provided natural defensive advantages**, making a U.S. invasion difficult.
* **Urban and rural landscapes allowed for guerrilla warfare**, which Cuba had experience with.

**Climate and Weather:**

* **Warm climate with tropical storms posed challenges for sustained military operations**.

**Strategic Location:**

* **Cuba’s proximity to the U.S. (90 miles from Florida) made it an ideal location for Soviet missile deployments**.
* **The Caribbean location allowed limited Soviet naval operations** but was vulnerable to the U.S. blockade.

**4. Political and Diplomatic Resources**

**Alliances and Partnerships:**

* **The Soviet Union and Cuba had a strong military alliance**, with **Cuba serving as the USSR’s strategic outpost in the Western Hemisphere**.
* **Few other allies supported Soviet actions openly**, as tensions with China were growing.

**International Law and Norms:**

* **The USSR justified its missile deployment as a defensive measure**, countering U.S. missiles in Turkey and Italy.
* **Global opinion was divided**, with non-aligned nations questioning both sides' actions.

**Domestic Political Support:**

* **Soviet leadership under Nikita Khrushchev had strong control over its military and policy-making**.
* **Cuban leader Fidel Castro had full public and military support**, but he was prepared for direct conflict with the U.S.

**5. Human and Social Resources**

**Population Size and Demographics:**

* **The Soviet Union had a massive population**, allowing for sustained military mobilization.
* **Cuba had a smaller population (about 7 million), but strong revolutionary spirit**.

**Morale and Cohesion:**

* **Soviet troops and leadership were committed to challenging U.S. nuclear dominance**.
* **Cuban forces were highly motivated**, willing to fight an invasion.

**Education and Skills:**

* **The Soviet Union had a highly educated workforce**, with a strong focus on science, engineering, and military strategy.
* **Cuba’s military personnel were trained by the Soviets but lacked advanced technology experience**.

**6. Technological and Scientific Capabilities**

**Research and Development (R&D):**

* **The USSR had an advanced military research sector**, developing intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and nuclear submarines.
* **Cuba relied on Soviet technology and had limited R&D capabilities**.

**Space Capabilities:**

* **The Soviet space program had launched the first satellite (Sputnik) and first human into space**, demonstrating technological superiority.
* **Satellite intelligence was still developing but less advanced than U.S. systems**.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

* Not applicable during the 1960s.

**7. Energy and Infrastructure**

**Energy Security:**

* **The USSR had vast oil and gas reserves**, ensuring long-term sustainability.
* **Cuba depended entirely on Soviet energy imports**.

**Transportation Networks:**

* **The Soviet Union had a well-developed railway system**, critical for military logistics.
* **Cuba’s infrastructure was weak, with limited highways and rail lines**.

**Communication Systems:**

* **The USSR had strong military communication networks**, but **coordination with Cuba was limited due to geographical distance**.
* **Cuba’s internal communication was basic, relying on Soviet advisors**.

**8. Cultural and Psychological Factors**

**National Will:**

* **Soviet citizens were accustomed to military mobilization and Cold War tensions**.
* **Cuban nationalism and revolutionary spirit were at an all-time high**, with **Castro rallying support for resistance**.

**Psychological Resilience:**

* **Soviet citizens were prepared for Cold War conflicts**, though nuclear fears were high.
* **Cuba was fully prepared for war, with mass civilian militia training and defensive measures in place**.

**9. Legal and Ethical Considerations**

**Compliance with International Law:**

* **The USSR argued that deploying nuclear weapons in Cuba was a sovereign decision**.
* **Cuba justified accepting Soviet missiles as a defense against U.S. aggression**.

**Ethical Implications:**

* **The Soviet Union framed its actions as countering U.S. global dominance**, while critics saw it as reckless escalation.
* **Cuba saw its role as resisting U.S. imperialism, but the presence of nuclear weapons was controversial**.

**10. Adversary Analysis (Specific to the United States and its Allies)**

**Enemy Capabilities:**

* The **U.S. had superior nuclear and conventional forces**.
* **Naval and air superiority allowed the U.S. to enforce a blockade**.

**Enemy Alliances:**

* **The U.S. had NATO and strong support from Latin American allies**.
* **Cuba was diplomatically isolated aside from Soviet backing**.

**Enemy Strategy and Tactics:**

* The U.S. used **a naval blockade to pressure the USSR without direct military engagement**.
* **Diplomatic negotiations ultimately forced Soviet withdrawal of missiles**.

**Key Questions Before Engaging in War (For the USSR and Cuba during the Crisis)**

**Objectives:**

* **Deter U.S. intervention in Cuba and counterbalance U.S. nuclear superiority**.

**Cost-Benefit Analysis:**

* **Deployment of missiles gave the USSR strategic leverage, but nuclear war risks were high**.

**Exit Strategy:**

* **Soviet withdrawal of missiles was secured in exchange for U.S. commitments**.

**Risk Assessment:**

* **High risk of nuclear conflict**, ultimately avoided through negotiations.