

**17.1**

# **The Cold War & Vietnam**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Explain the steps Kennedy took to change American foreign policy.
- Analyze the causes and effects of the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Assess the outcome of the Berlin Crisis and other foreign-policy events of the 1960s.
- Describe the reasons that the United States helped the French fight the Vietnamese.
- Identify ways in which the United States opposed communism in Southeast Asia.
- Analyze how the United States increased its involvement in Vietnam.

# Kennedy Strives to Win Cold War

Kennedy decided the first goal of his administration would be to build up armed forces

Kennedy believed the nation could meet any challenge, determined to stop the spread of communism & threat of nuclear war

A black and white photograph of three soldiers in a field. One soldier is in the foreground, crouching and aiming a rifle. Two other soldiers are in the background, also aiming rifles. The scene is misty or smoky.

He believed the nation needed to prepare for conventional wars & increased spending

**Flexible Response-** Defense policy that U.S. would be prepared to fight any conflict

# International Decisions

**Developing nations did not align with a world power,  
but USSR said capitalism of the West caused  
poverty**

**Peace Corps-** American volunteers traveling the world  
to assist developing countries (1991)

**First group traveled to Africa in 1961  
working as teachers & developing  
support**

**Alliance for Progress-U.S. would pledged  
support to help improve Latin  
American nations (unsuccessful)**





# Communism in Cuba

**1959 Fidel Castro overthrows the government of Cuba & begin a communist government**

**U.S. tries to build relations, but Cuba nationalizes country & accepts Soviet Union aid**



**1961- Eisenhower begins a plan with CIA to invade Cuba & overthrow Castro**

**Eisenhower leaves offices with the plan unexecuted, Kennedy is pressured to complete it**

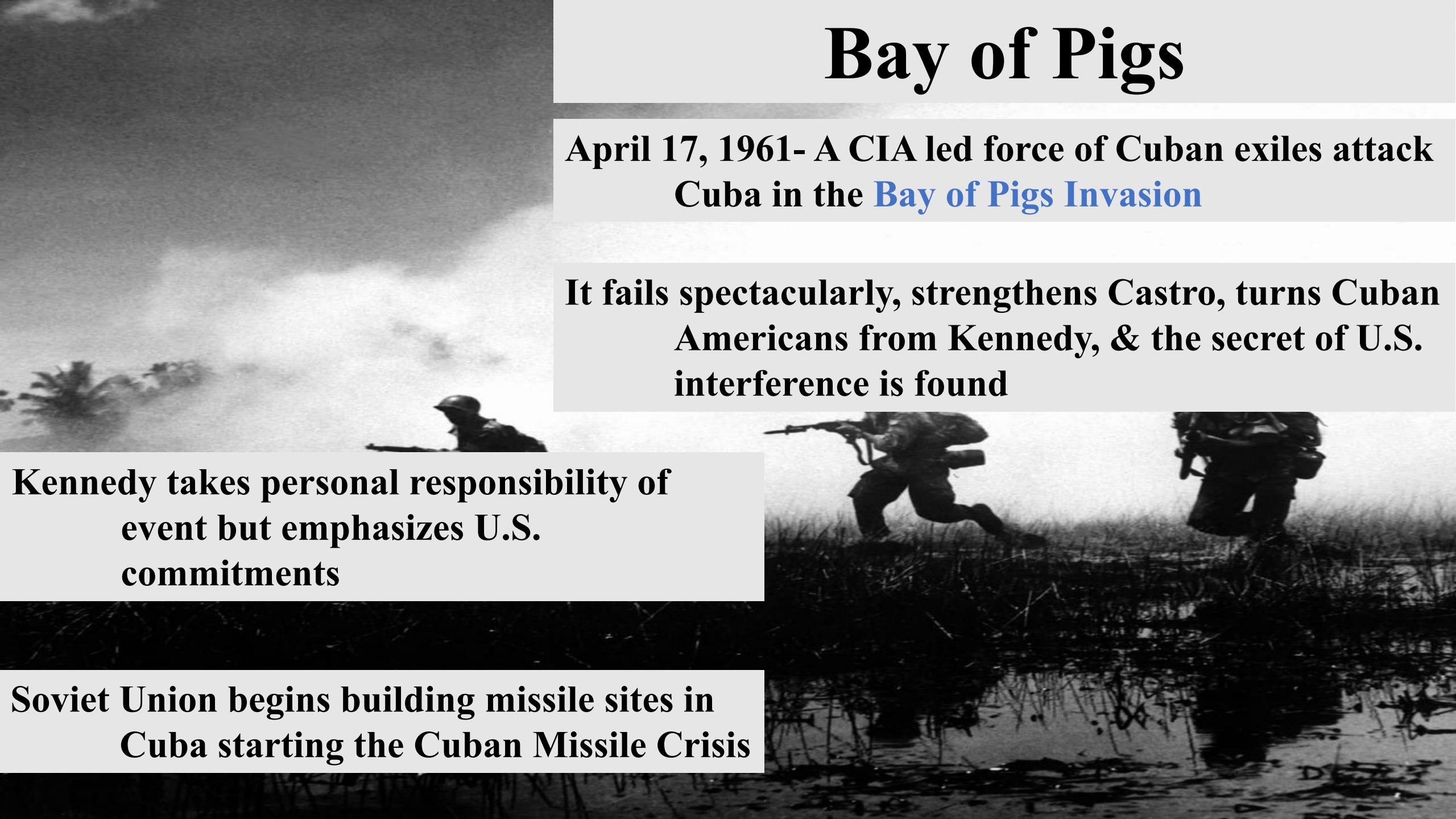
# Bay of Pigs

**April 17, 1961- A CIA led force of Cuban exiles attack Cuba in the [Bay of Pigs Invasion](#)**

**It fails spectacularly, strengthens Castro, turns Cuban Americans from Kennedy, & the secret of U.S. interference is found**

**Kennedy takes personal responsibility of event but emphasizes U.S. commitments**

**Soviet Union begins building missile sites in Cuba starting the Cuban Missile Crisis**



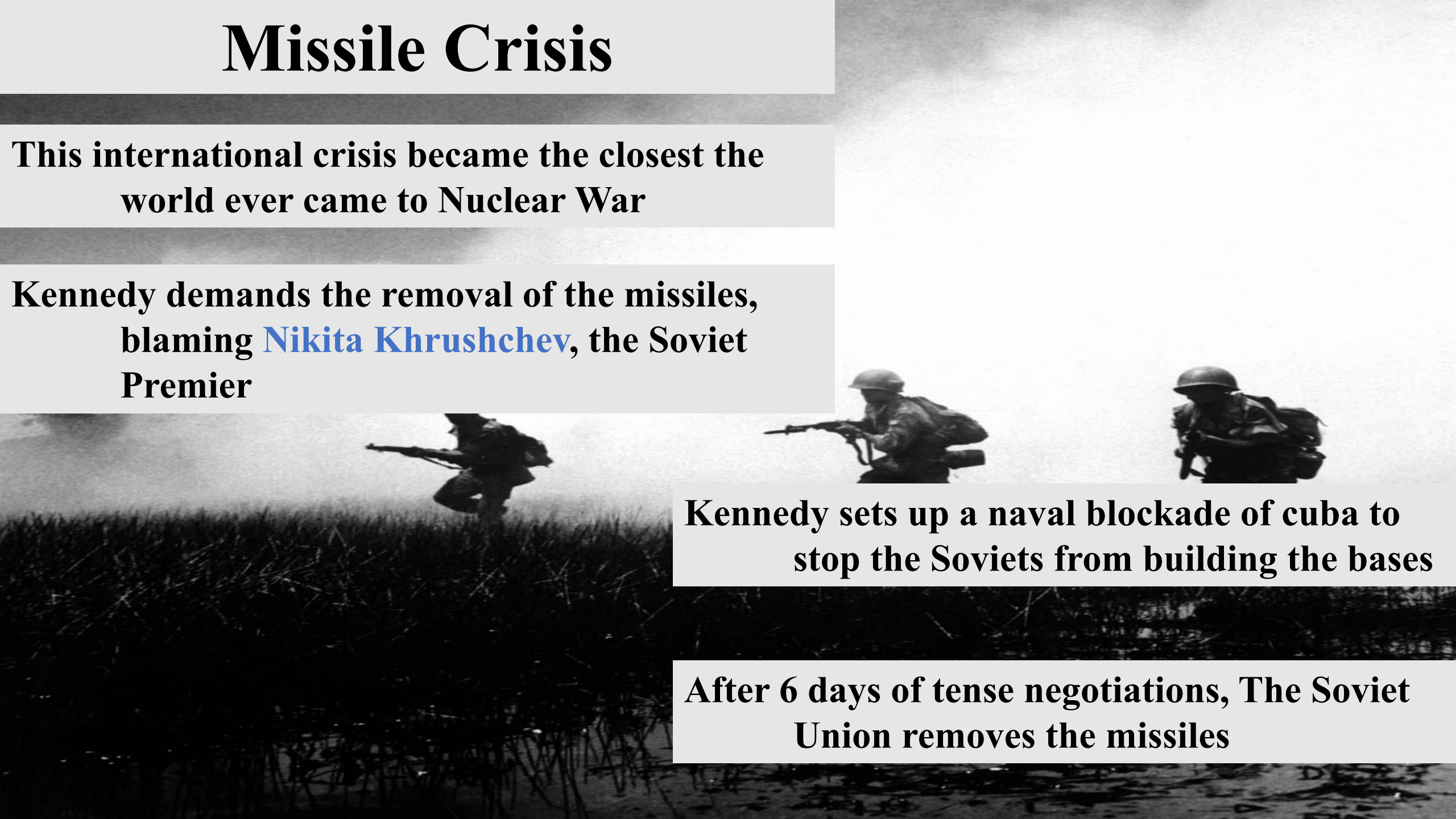
# Missile Crisis

**This international crisis became the closest the world ever came to Nuclear War**

**Kennedy demands the removal of the missiles, blaming [Nikita Khrushchev](#), the Soviet Premier**

**Kennedy sets up a naval blockade of Cuba to stop the Soviets from building the bases**

**After 6 days of tense negotiations, The Soviet Union removes the missiles**





# **\*Impact of the Crisis**

**Khrushchev loses prestige & Soviet Union chips away at his power**

**Kennedy becomes a world leader who had remained calm & resolute in the face of war**

**Both nations created the “hot-line” a telephone system between Moscow & Washington**

**Nuclear Test Ban Treaty- U.S. Great Britain, & USSR sign agreement to stop aboveground nuclear tests**





# Berlin Crisis

**Since 1958, Krushchev wanted to sign a peace treaty that would put West Berlin under control of East Berlin**

**Kennedy believed in the commitment to protect West Berlin saying the situation was intolerable**



**Kennedy & Khrushchev met, but neither give up occupation rights, increasing cold war tensions**

**Kennedy increases military spending & Khrushchev constructs the Berlin Wall**

# U.S. Involvement in Indochina

**Kennedy & Johnson had a vision for a better world,  
that started with defend against communism in  
Vietnam**

**In 1800s, France had control over the Indochina  
region, ruling Vietnam with an iron fist**

**High taxes & western influence caused  
massive poverty of the local cultures**

**Ho Chi Minh begins to demand for  
independence for Vietnam, travels the  
world & becomes communist**



# French Fight

**After WWII, France began to struggle to hold control over the region**

**The U.S. believed in decolonization, but wanted France to ally against the Soviet Union**



**Truman aid's French efforts to regain control over Vietnam hoping to keep communism out of region**

**Ho Chi Minh & the Vietminh continued to oppose France in support for communism**



# Domino Theory

Eisenhower takes office & supports Truman's policy to contain Vietnam

**Domino Theory-** Idea that if Vietnam fell to communism, other neighboring nations would as well

1954- France is trapped in a siege by Vietminh forces & surrenders

Vietnam was split, **Ho Chi Minh & the communists** in **North Vietnam** & an **anticommunist** government in **South Vietnam**



# U.S. Response to Communism

**The United States began to send aid to South Vietnam to stop communism**

**Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)-  
Coalition of Pacific nations similar to  
NATO**

A black and white photograph showing three soldiers in a field. One soldier is in the foreground, crouching and aiming a rifle. Two other soldiers are in the background, also aiming rifles. The field is filled with tall grass or reeds, and the background is hazy.

**Ngo Dinh Diem takes control of South Vietnam  
as a ruthless nationalist leader**

**Diem refuses a free election, fearing a vote for  
Ho Chi Minh & the U.S. backs him**

# Insurgency

**1957- Communist rebel group, National Liberation Front (NLF) begin campaign to unite Vietnam under communism**

**Vietcong-** NLF guerrilla fighters, begin an insurgency to assassinate government officials & destroy South Vietnam infrastructure

**Diem creates anti Buddhist legislation & become massively unpopular**

**Kennedy begins to send troops to South Vietnam to advise military forces**





# Conflict Escalates

**As Diem's popularity fell, the U.S. secretly worked with South Vietnam generals to overthrow government**

**Diem is assassinated & Johnson begins to plan for a victory in Vietnam**



**1964- A North Vietnamese torpedo strikes the *USS Maddox*, prompting a return fire**

**Gulf of Tonkin Resolution-** Congressional act that allowed the President to use any means necessary to prevent further aggression