

2. Tension between USA and Cuba

a. Fidel Castro gets friendly with USSR

- **1959**: the Communist Fidel Castro took power in Cuba. This is very threatening to the USA because it is right next to America.
- **1960**: Castro made a trade agreement with Russia, whereby Cuba sent sugar to Russia, in return for oil, machines and money. This frightened the Americans more, and they stopped trading with Cuba. In retaliation, Cuba nationalised all American-owned companies.

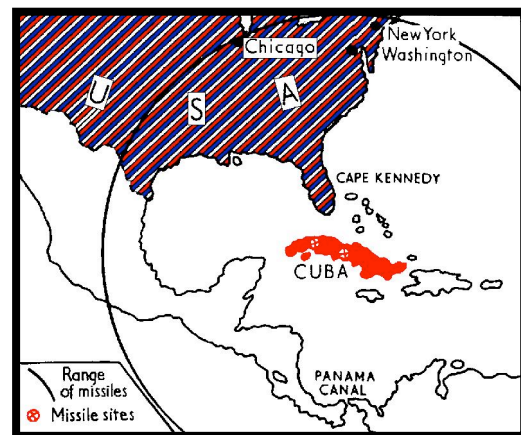
b. The Bay of Pigs and its aftermath

- **1961**: In April 1961 the CIA encouraged, funded and transported an attempt by anti-Castro Cuban exiles to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. It failed miserably, greatly embarrassing Kennedy. In September 1961, therefore, Castro asked for – and Russia publicly promised – weapons to defend Cuba against America.
- **1962**: The US Armed Forces conducted a mock invasion of a Caribbean island to overthrow a fictitious dictator whose name, Ortsac, is Castro spelled backwards. Additionally, the U.S. is drafting a plan to invade Cuba (Operation Mongoose). The mock invasion and invasion plan are devised to keep Castro nervous.

3. The Outcome: The World comes to the brink of Nuclear Holocaust

On **14 October** an American U2 spy-plane took pictures of a nuclear missile base being built on Cuba. Kennedy's advisers told him he had 10 days before Cuba could fire the missiles at targets in America.

The diagram to the left shows the range of the missiles based in Cuba. The situation now looked deadly serious.



Task:

1. Produce a Mindmap outlining the causes of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Use illustrations and extra details from the textbook as appropriate.

2. Produce a Venn diagram showing how

- USSR
- USA
- Cuba

Is responsible for the Crisis.

3. Using your completed diagram, answer this question:

“Which country is most responsible for the Cuban Missile Crisis?”