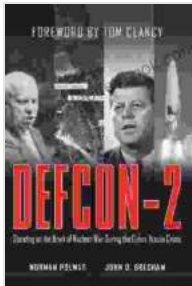


Standing on the Brink of Nuclear War: The Cuban Missile Crisis



DEFCON-2: Standing on the Brink of Nuclear War During the Cuban Missile Crisis by Norman Polmar

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 7673 KB
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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
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The Cuban Missile Crisis was a 13-day confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union in October 1962, during the Cold War. It is generally regarded as the closest the world has ever come to nuclear war.

The crisis began on October 14, 1962, when U.S. spy planes discovered Soviet nuclear missiles being installed in Cuba, just 90 miles from the coast of Florida. President John F. Kennedy responded by ordering a naval blockade of Cuba and demanding the removal of the missiles. The Soviet Union refused, and the two superpowers were on the brink of war.

For 13 days, the world held its breath as the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a tense standoff. Both sides threatened to use nuclear weapons if the other side did not back down. Finally, on October 28, 1962,

the Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for a U.S. pledge not to invade Cuba and to remove its own nuclear missiles from Turkey.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a major turning point in the Cold War. It showed both sides the dangers of nuclear brinkmanship and led to a new era of détente, or relaxation of tensions.

The Causes of the Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis was the result of a number of factors, including:

- The Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union
- The Soviet Union's desire to establish a nuclear foothold in the Western Hemisphere
- The United States' fear of a Soviet nuclear attack on the United States
- The Cuban government's willingness to host Soviet nuclear missiles

The Course of the Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis began on October 14, 1962, when U.S. spy planes discovered Soviet nuclear missiles being installed in Cuba. President John F. Kennedy responded by ordering a naval blockade of Cuba and demanding the removal of the missiles. The Soviet Union refused, and the two superpowers were on the brink of war.

For 13 days, the world held its breath as the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a tense standoff. Both sides threatened to use nuclear weapons if the other side did not back down. Finally, on October 28, 1962, the Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for a U.S.

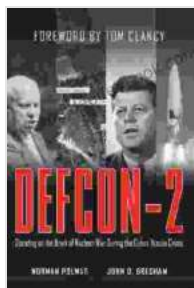
pledge not to invade Cuba and to remove its own nuclear missiles from Turkey.

The Aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a major turning point in the Cold War. It showed both sides the dangers of nuclear brinkmanship and led to a new era of détente, or relaxation of tensions. The crisis also led to the establishment of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which prohibits the spread of nuclear weapons.

The Legacy of the Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis is a reminder of the dangers of nuclear war. It is a lesson that we must never forget.



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