The outcomes of the Cuban Missile Crisis were equally successful for :(i) the USA; (ii) the USSR ;(iii) Cuba.

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| Point | Evidence | Explain |
| USA | Kennedy appeared stronger because of the incident. He had stood up to the spread of communism and forced Cuba to remove its missile sites.The US foreign policy of containment was not successful because Cuba remained a Communist state despite the removal of missiles, the Bay of Pigs incident and the withdrawal of trade. The USA had to remove its missiles from Turkey. However this remained secret. | After the Cuban Missile crisis Cuba remained communist, this threatened the USA as it was right on their doorstep and the first communist state in their sphere of influence. The price the USA had to pay for the removal of Soviet missiles was the secret removal of US missiles in Turkey, thus weakening US containment policy. As this remained secret Kennedy could claim that he had stood up to Khrushchev and his decisive action removed the threat of a nuclear base in Cuba. |
| USSR | Khrushchev had to remove missiles from Cuba but it remained communist and a convenient base for communists in South America. His reputation improved internationally but not within his own party. He did get the USA to remove missiles from Turkey but this could not be known publicly.  | In the USSR, the fact that Khrushchev had been forced to back down was quickly forgotten and instead his role of responsible peacemaker, willing to make the first move to compromise, was highlighted. The USSR received some sympathy regarding the hypocritical nature of America’s objections to missiles in Cuba. However, the crisis damaged Khrushchev’s prestige, despite the fact he claimed the crisis was a victory for the USSR. They were humiliated as their missiles were counted on the ships. Some leading Soviet politicians were angry that their country had been forced to back down. They played a significant part in Khrushchev’s dismissal in 1964. |
| Cuba | Castro was very upset by the deal Khrushchev had to make. Cuba had to have its missile launch sites removed but remained a part of a strong alliance with the USSR. It remained highly armed with non-nuclear weapons. Cuba also remains communist to this day. | Cuba considered itself a strong ally of the USSR and could depend on it for protection and considerable aid. Cuba remained an important base for Communist supporters and even helped in the civil war in Angola. Castro kept control of the American companies and other economic resources he had nationalised, which benefitted Cuba financially.  |

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| Cuba |  |  |

Who caused the Cuban Missile Crisis

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| Point | Evidence | Explain |
| USABay of Pigs | The USA was concerned about the coming to power of Castro and tried to remove him with the Bay of Pigs operation. Kennedy had supplied arms, equipment and transport for 1400 anti-communist exiles to invade Cuba. The US had also backed the dictator Batista in the Cuban Revolution, who had lost. | This was a total failure and Kennedy was humiliated. It resulted in Castro moving even closer to the USSR who began to place missiles on Cuba.This led to the USA being even more determined to remove Castro. |
| USAMissile Gap | The myth of the missile gap meant that the USA worked hard to produce new weapons and create bases in which they could fire on the USSR. They developed more long range missiles than the USSR and stationed medium range missiles in Europe and Turkey. | The arms race and the placing of missiles near Russia made Khrushchev feel threatened and wanted to retaliate with missiles near the USA in the event of a nuclear war. |
| USSR | The Berlin Crisis and the building of the Wall in 1961 greatly increased the tension between the superpowers. As Kennedy was seen to be weak by not taking action in Berlin | As Kennedy had not taken action in this instance, it led to Khrushchev believing he could get away with placing missiles on Cuba. He did not expect Kennedy to act due to fear of nuclear war. |
| USSRSending missiles to Cuba | Khrushchev tested him further by placing missiles as close as possible to the USA to increase the Communist sphere of influence. This was one of the reasons for the crisis. The ships carrying the missiles were just 90 miles from Florida before they turned around due to the blockade. | This event led the world the closest it has ever been to a nuclear war. Missiles on Cuba could reach all major US cities. The American people took steps to prepare for nuclear war. |

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Who handled the Cuban Missile Crisis better/who was it a victory for?

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| KennedyReputation | Some of Kennedy’s own government had wanted the USA to invade Cuba but Kennedy realised this was not worth the high risk and chose the blockade as his strategy. Kennedy came out of the crisis with a greatly improved reputation in his own country and throughout the West. |  He had stood up to Khrushchev and forced him to back down Kennedy also stood up to the hardliners in his own government.  |
| KennedyNo missiles in Cuba | Kennedy persuaded Khrushchev to withdraw his ships and not cross the blockade and also to remove the missile sites from Cuba but had to remove missiles in Turkey in return.  |  Kennedy did have to remove the US missiles from Turkey, which weakened his position. However, Khrushchev had to agree to keep this secret so as not to gain publicity. However the crisis exposed the USA to criticism with arguments about the USA being unreasonable in having missiles in Turkey and then objecting to Soviet Missiles in Cuba. |
| KhrushchevSaved Cuba | The USSR had saved Cuba from invasion.  | There was no question that keeping Cuba safe from America action was a major achievement for the Soviets. Cuba was a valuable ally and proved a useful base to use, to support Communists in South America. The US had toaccept that Castro’s Cuba would remain a Communist state in America’s backyard. |
| KhrushchevReputation | Khrushchev had successfully negotiated with Kennedy and forced him to remove missiles from Turkey. | In public, Khrushchev was able to highlight his role as a responsible peacemaker, by writing letters and withdrawing missiles, willing to make his first move towards compromise.The crisis damaged Khrushchev’s prestige; despite the fact he claimed the crisis was a victory for the Soviet Union. Some leading Soviet politicians were angry that their country had been forced to back down. They played a significant part in Khrushchev’s dismissal in 1964. |

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