How Aggression from the Kennedy Administration played a major role in the Soviets Building of the Berlin Wall

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Cold War- Overview

• After World War Two much of Europe was destroyed and the economies of these countries were ruined

• Two Super Powers remained above the rest for much of the 20th Century
  • United States of America
  • Soviet Union

• Both of these countries were completely different on the political scale

• This was a fight between two countries who would not go into a war against one another but fought against each other for over 50 years
Events of the Cold War that will be looked at

- Bay of Pigs Invasion
- Vienna Summit
- The Building of the Berlin Wall
All history has events that sparked future events

• History is not created in a vacuum.
• Events just do not come up out of the air.
• Those 3 events all play into each other.
• Without one you may not get the other.
John F. Kennedy

- Referred to as JFK
- He was the 35th President of the United States
- In office from 1961-1963
  - The Events that provoked the Soviets were during this time
- Known for being soft on Communism
- He was a huge role on how the United States dealt with the threat of Communism after his assassination in 1963
- Some say he was one of the top 10 Presidents of all-time
Bay of Pigs Invasion

• April 17, 1961
• Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba in 1959
  • Communist who supported the Soviet Union
• Cuba is only 90 miles away from the coast of Florida
• The CIA wanted Castro out of power so beginning in 1960 they were planning a military invasion in Cuba.
  • Planned under Eisenhower but was given the go ahead by Kennedy
• The US trained and supplied 1,450 Cuban Exiles to fight against Castro
• This failed miserably as all 1,450 were either killed or taken prisoner
• This cemented a rocky relationship with Castro and also with the Soviets
Vienna Summit

• Meeting held on June 4, 1961
• This was a meeting between John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev
• At this meeting they discussed numerous issues:
  • Berlin – Peace negotiations, borders of Berlin
  • Laos
  • Relationship context on what FDR promised the Russians
  • Bay of Pigs Invasion
• In these discussions the young Kennedy was overmatched by the experienced Khrushchev
• No progress was made from this meeting but this showed a lot
Building of the Berlin Wall

- Starting on August 13th 1961
  - The Soviets put up a wall that separated East and West Berlin
- This separated families in Berlin
- This became the symbol of the Cold War
- The Russians stated it built this because of the people in East Berlin defecting to the West
- During this time no peace agreement was met between the two super powers over Germany
- The Americans were being too slow in the negotiating of Germany
- The Russian response was to make their own border up since the United States were not going to make the agreement