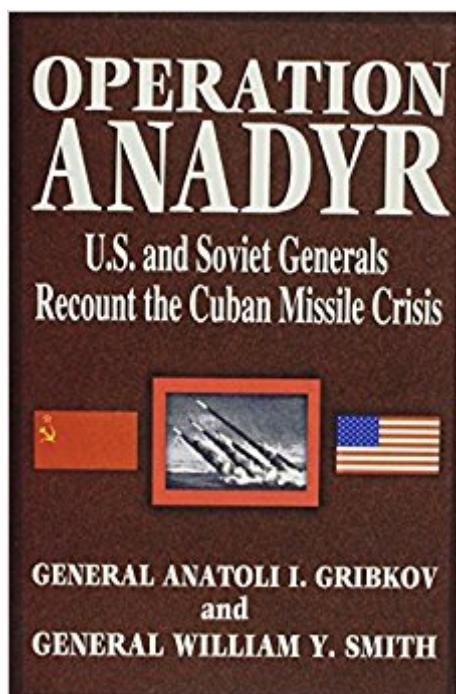


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Operation Anadyr: U.S. And Soviet Generals Recount The Cuban Missile Crisis



Synopsis

Top Soviet and U.S. military participants recount the Cuban missile crisis. Among the startling new facts revealed by adversaries Gribkov and Smith is that both sides made decisions based on false intelligence. This eye-opening book will be supported by joint author appearances on radio and TV.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thirty years ago the United States and the Soviet Union stood at the brink of nuclear war over Cuba. Since that time a great deal has been written about the crisis, almost all from our side. Gribkov, who oversaw the shipment of the Soviet weaponry across thousands of miles of ocean, recounts in detail how the Russians were able to move 40,000 Soviet troops and countless tons of nuclear missiles and equipment to Cuba, all without detection from American military surveillance. Smith, an assistant to Maxwell Taylor, attended many of the crisis meetings Kennedy held during those tense days in October 1962. Gribkov argues that the Soviet Union feared an American invasion of Cuba and installed the weapons as a deterrence. Smith relates how Kennedy and his advisers saw Khrushchev's Cuban gambit as a strategic counterpart to the boiling situation in Berlin. The authors, especially Gribkov, provide a unique perspective from which to view our nation's most fearsome crisis. Recommended for general collections. See also James Blight and others' *Cuba on the Brink* , LJ 11/1/93.--Ed.- Ed Goedeken, Iowa State Univ. Lib., AmesCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gribkov attended the conference transcribed in Cuba on the Brink, edited by James G. Blight ,

because he had organized the logistics of shipping 50,000 Soviet soldiers and their nuclear weapons to Cuba in 1962. That same year, Smith was an aide to the Pentagon's top officer, Maxwell Taylor. Here, each veteran of the missile crisis presents his personal recollections of the event--Gribkov's narration being more personal than Smith's, who, by contrast, seems detached. The difference arises because Gribkov was sweating on the ground in Cuba, pushing forward the secret missile deployment, while Smith was an intelligence traffic cop, trying to make sense of all the frantic activity. Smith also tends not to dramatize Kennedy's Cold War policies, making them seem almost routine--except for his interesting passages about the military's vehement opposition to JFK's no-invasion pledge. The military demanded an invasion forthwith, which many think would have started World War III. But would it have? Gribkov startlingly reveals that at the moment the Russian presence was discovered, Moscow withdrew authority to use atomic weapons if an invasion occurred. Such a significant fact punches this specialty book's meal ticket; however, collections ought first to have Michael Beschloss' *Crisis Years* (1992) or Dino A. Brugioni's *Eyeball to Eyeball* (1991). Gilbert Taylor

This book in my opinion is one of the best in the subject of the Cuban missile crisis and the cold war in general. The First Hand Experience from both top ranking military officers from both opposing superpowers takes the reader behind the scenes. From their separate narratives, General Anatoli I. Gribov Chief of staff for Warsaw Pact forces, and General William Y. Smith, who was the White House Air Force staff assistant to General Maxwell D. Taylor who was then military representative to President John F. Kennedy, shows you the decisions made in Washington and Moscow, the actions and reactions they caused and how close the world came to Nuclear War.

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