

## BOOK REVIEW

**October 1962**

*The 'Missile' Crisis As Seen From Cuba*

TOMÁS DIEZ ACOSTA

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**Reviewed by:** J.A. Gagliano, Emeritus, Loyola University of Chicago

Providing a Cuban perspective of the events that threatened a nuclear holocaust, Diez Acosta adds to the spate of memoirs and polemics describing the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. A retired Cuban army officer and military historian, he has written extensively on Cuban relations with the Soviet Union and the US following the 1959 Castro Revolution.

This narrative draws largely from published US, Soviet, and Cuban primary sources, as well as from interviews with participants in the confrontation. The author asserts that Castro sought Soviet missiles to assist in defending the island against US hostility and aggression, which were evident even before the 1961 Bay of Pigs incursion. According to Diez Acosta, "Operation Mongoose," which included plotted assassinations of Cuban leaders, increased apprehensions of an imminent US invasion in 1962, making Soviet deterrent assistance urgent.

Intensely critical of both Khrushchev and John Kennedy in negotiating the withdrawal of Soviet weaponry, Diez Acosta contends that the settlement denied Cuba any role in resolving the crisis and ignored Castro's plan for guaranteeing Cuban sovereignty and future security. His study includes the texts of several pertinent Cuban, Soviet, US, and UN documents, photographs, and a useful bibliography.

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.