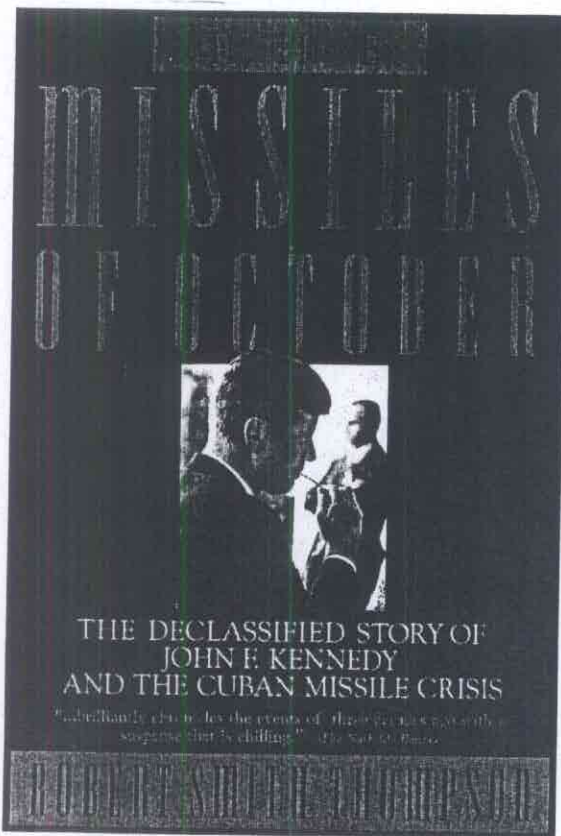


Tiger fall

THE MISSILES OF OCTOBER

The Declassified Story of John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis

Robert Smith Thompson



◆ Feature at National Political Science and History Conferences

History
5 1/2 x 8 1/4, 400 pages
8 pages of b/w photographs
0-671-87176-5, \$13.00

"Brilliantly chronicles the events of three decades ago with a suspense that is killing."

— Nashville Banner

A dramatic reinterpretation of a seminal event of the Cold War—based on documents recently made available at the National Security Archive.

As the world reassesses Cold War politics, the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 stands out as a landmark example of the tensions and deceptions of the period. Using newly declassified information, Robert Smith Thompson discloses the truth behind America's "victory" in the crisis and exposes some dangerous ambitions of the Kennedy administration.

Re-creating the hysterical anti-communist atmosphere of the early 1960s, *The Missiles of October* depicts in chilling detail the administration's drive for dominance and its obsession with communist Cuba and Fidel Castro. Thompson uncovers materials that suggest a full-scale invasion of Cuba was aborted by the president only after the true risks became apparent, and that far from being surprised at learning of the missiles in Cuba, Kennedy had known about them for almost six months before the official warning. The handling of the crisis itself, Thompson argues, was far different from the heroic legend. Major concessions to the Soviets, secretly negotiated by Robert Kennedy, included a pledge not to invade Cuba and the removal of U.S. missiles from Turkey.

With the skill of a novelist and a historian's rigor, Thompson sheds light on one of the darkest moments in recent history.

A Professor of International Relations at the University of South Carolina, **Robert Smith Thompson** is also the author of *Pledge to Destiny* and *A Time for War*.