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**Auszug aus:**

*John F. Kennedy's Assassination - Background, Facts and Theories*

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**Titel:** *Arbeitsblatt aus der Reihe „School-Scout – up-to-date“*  
**John F. Kennedy’s Assassination in Dallas, November 22nd, 1963 – Background, Facts and Theories**

**Bestellnummer:** 57409

**Kurzvorstellung:**

- Dieses englischsprachige Arbeitsblatt für den direkten Einsatz im Unterricht befasst sich mit dem Attentat auf den US-Präsidenten John F. Kennedy vom 22. November 1963. Der Werdegang und die politischen Hintergründe werden dabei ebenso beleuchtet wie die immer noch ungeklärte Faktenlage und die Verschwörungstheorien in der amerikanischen Öffentlichkeit.
- The text gives information on the political situation around John F. Kennedy’s assassination, his political background and the facts and myths surrounding his death.
- Komplette englischsprachiges Material!

**Inhaltsübersicht:**

- Station 1: John F. Kennedy – A Legend?
  - John F. Kennedy – Hope for an entire generation?
  - The Cuban Missile Crisis – A Cloze
- Station 2: Assassination and Heritage
  - The Assassination of JFK on November 22nd, 1963
  - Tragic death or conspiracy?
  - Heritage and Promises

The Cuba Missile Crisis started on \_\_\_\_\_ when Soviet missiles and military bases were discovered during a recon flight by American soldiers. Kennedy subsequently asked the Soviet head of state \_\_\_\_\_ to dismantle the missile sites and leave Cuba. The conflict intensified once more when Kennedy ordered a \_\_\_\_\_ in order to stop the supply of more weapons to Cuba. A \_\_\_\_\_ became a likely scenario for a potential outcome of the confrontation between the US and the USSR.

However, after intense discussions and negotiations, \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to dismantle the missile sites and \_\_\_\_\_ renounced an invasion into Cuba. The missile crisis ended on \_\_\_\_\_.

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***Possible solutions:***

**Bay of Pigs - Fidel Castro - October 28, 1962 - naval blockade - Nikita Chruschtschow - arms race - nuclear war - John F. Kennedy - October 14, 1962 – invasion - nuclear missiles - Chruschtschow - Cuba**

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**Tasks:**

1. *Kennedy remains one of the most popular presidents in US history. His family is very well known in US politics. Conduct a research into some members of his family concerning their former/current positions in US politics.*
2. *Explain why some commentators have argued that JFK's election victory was in fact based on election fraud in Texas and Illinois.*
3. *Describe how the Cuban Missile Crisis impacted the world as a whole.*
4. *In which way has Kennedy's administration formed new relations between Germans and Americans during his administration?*

The investigation into the assassination of JFK was re-opened in the 1970s and the **United States House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA)** concluded in 1979 that the Warren Report as well as the original FBI investigation was in fact flawed. It was argued that at least four shots were fired, that most likely **two gunmen** were involved and that a conspiracy was probable.

### **M3: Heritage and Promises**

‘Lincoln died at the height of his power, just as victory was achieved in the Civil War and before he had to deal with the thorny problems of Reconstruction. It’s the same with JFK. The blood of his tragic assassination washed away his policy and personal sins. He was consecrated a martyr and a kind of secular saint. November 22, 1963 made John F. Kennedy a myth but let’s remember he would have preferred to be a man.’

*- Professor Larry Sabato, Director of the Centre for Politics at the University of Virginia*

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### **Tasks:**

1. *Has security failed to protect the President properly? Name some aspects that would be different if the US president would ride a car through a crowd of people nowadays.*
2. *Why do so many people cling to the idea of a conspiracy involving the death of JFK?*
3. *Explain the quote by Professor Sabato and include the political and historical circumstances of his presidency.*

3. *Describe how the Cuban Missile Crisis impacted the world as a whole.*
  - The world probably never came closer to a global nuclear war, which would not only have impacted the US and USSR but countries all over the world
  - Nuclear weapons were used as a threat during the Cold War; however, for the first time in history both nations came very close to make use of them
  - Although the conflict only involved the US, Cuba and the USSR, the world population as a whole would have suffered from the consequences of a nuclear war
  
4. *In which way has Kennedy's administration formed new relations between Germans and Americans during his administration?*
  - Kennedys visit to Berlin is one of the most remembered images of Kennedy in Germany
  - By saying the words "Ich bin ein Berliner", Kennedy boosted morale for all West Berliners, who lived in an enclave in East Germany after the wall was built
  - The speech is seen as a milestone in the development of friendly transatlantic relations to America
  - Today, there are many commemorative sites to Kennedy in Berlin, such as the German-American John F. Kennedy School

## Station 2

1. *Has security failed to protect the President properly? Name some aspects that would be different if the US president would ride a car through a crowd of people nowadays.*
  - The President would not ride in an open-topped limousine, but ride in a bullet proof car
  - Compared to nowadays, the route would be checked days beforehand to make sure no bombs or other devices could have been pre-installed
  - In Dallas, many local inhabitants had their windows open to get a better view of the President and his wife, which would not be possible today
  - Many parts of the local crowds in 1963 were unscreened and could have carried weapons without the Secret Service knowing about it
  
2. *Why do so many people cling to the idea of a conspiracy involving the death of JFK?*
  - Some of the evidence lacks 100% proof that Lee Harvey Oswald was indeed the only gunman involved in the assassination



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