

Summary of an Article Example

"The Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis" by Graham Allison

& Philip Zelikow

Allison and Zelikow's article presents three conceptual models to analyze the decision-making process during the Cuban Missile Crisis, offering distinct perspectives on how key players navigated the crisis.

1. The Rational Actor Model:

- This model posits that statesmen act as rational actors, carefully weighing the costs and benefits of various options. It assumes decision-makers have clear goals, access to all relevant information, and make choices based on a logical evaluation of alternatives.

2. The Organizational Process Model:

- Contrary to the rational actor model, this approach views decisions as outcomes of organizational processes. It suggests that individual decision-makers within organizations follow standard operating procedures and routines, shaping their choices based on organizational culture and structure.

3. The Governmental Politics Model:

- This model introduces the idea that decisions are outcomes of political bargaining and negotiation among various actors within the government. Individual preferences, power struggles, and bureaucratic conflicts all play a role in shaping the final decision.

By applying these three models to the Cuban Missile Crisis, the authors illuminate the complexity of decision-making in a crisis situation. They argue that the interplay of rational,

organizational, and political factors collectively influences how decisions are made at the highest levels of government.

"The Essence of Decision" remains a seminal work in political science and international relations, providing a framework that continues to shape the study of decision-making in moments of crisis.

myperfectWords