Historians generally regard the Berlin blockade of 1948/49 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 as the most dangerous Cold War crises. It appeared that politicians on both sides of the iron curtain barely averted the outbreak of a war between the superpowers. But what made those two crises so dangerous? By looking at the structure of conflicts between the superpowers, Georg Schild, Professor History at the University of Tübingen in Germany, argues that some of the better known crises were comparatively easy to manage, while other, lesser known conflicts, posed more serious problems and, in retrospect, have arguably been more dangerous.

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