ABSTRACT

In April, 1965 the US initiated a military involvement in the Dominican Republic. At the same time US leaders had laid the groundwork for an escalation in Vietnam. Fearing a communist plot led by the Cuban leader Fidel Castro the tactics implemented by the Johnson administration in the Dominican Republic also outlined their intentions for Vietnam. Strategists meant to show the American people that a massive force eventually led to negotiations. This paper explores motivations of Johnson and his key advisors. Unfortunately both of these ill-conceived military missions stained the Johnson administration’s significant achievements such as the Civil and Voting Rights Acts and the War on Poverty.