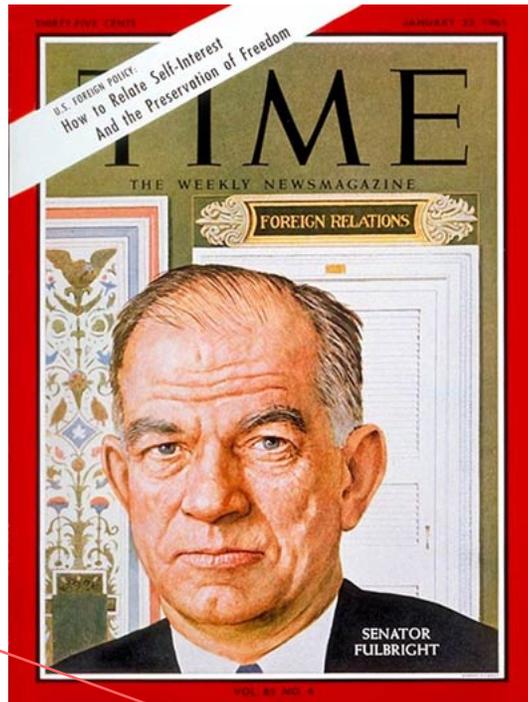


The Vietnam Quagmire

a harsh criticism of American power, from a Democrat, against a Democratic administration.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright published **The Arrogance of Power** (New York, Random House, 1966) in which he attacked the war's justification.

escalation had begun



the quotes mean that the author was questioning the justification of the war (SVN was a corrupt dictatorship).

“We are now engaged in a war to “defend freedom” in South Vietnam. Unlike the Republic of Korea, South Vietnam has an army which is without notable success and a weak, dictatorial government which does not command the loyalty of the South Vietnamese people. The official war aims of the United States Government, as I understand them, are to defeat what is regarded as North Vietnamese aggression, to demonstrate the futility of what the communists call “wars of national liberation,” and to create conditions under which the South Vietnamese people will be able freely to determine their own future (...) What I do doubt – and doubt very much – is the ability of the United States to achieve these aims by the means being used (...) What I do question is the ability of the United States, or France or any other Western nation, to go into a small, alien, undeveloped Asian nation and create stability where there is chaos, the will to fight where there is defeatism, democracy where there is no tradition of it and honest government where corruption is almost a way of life. Our handicap is well expressed in the pungent Chinese proverb: “In shallow waters dragons become the sport of shrimps.”

Is it possible to create democracy in a developing country by military means? No, said Fulbright.

An apt image of the Vietnam quagmire.

Using Senator Fulbright's statements and your knowledge, explain why the Vietnam war was likely to become a quagmire as early as 1966.