Have Gun, Will Travel: The Deacons for Defense and Justice, Armed Self-Defense and the Long Black Power Movement

This article describes how the Deacons for Defense and Justice used guns, military experience, and technology to force the State of Louisiana to protect African American and white Congress of Racial Equality and Bogalusa Voters League activists from the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and force enforcement of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Civil Rights Act. The author explores how ideas of masculinity and experience intersect with race to create an effective armed self-defense movement in Louisiana in 1965.