

## Is Obama Captain Queeg?

When the voters elected Barack “Barry” Hussein Obama Soetoro Obama to head the ship of state they no doubt thought he would maintain a steady hand on the wheel and steer the nation through an economic storm to the safety of a sheltered port for much needed repairs. But after 30 months at sea it seems that, like the infamous Captain Queeg (Lieutenant Commander Philip Francis Queeg) of Herman Wouk’s 1951 novel, *The Caine Mutiny*, all Captain Obama can do is steer the ship in circles, while castigating crew members for what he sees as their general incompetence.

Some have been tempted to give Captain Obama the benefit of the doubt, chalking up a fair number of his mistakes to a bumbling second in command (Joe Biden), various sailors who are on their first tour of duty on the high seas (Obama’s Chicago gangsters and his naive “Hope and Change” White House groupies), and a number of “petty officers” (former Clinton staffers). But Obama, like Queeg, is ultimately the man who must be held accountable. Queeg’s circular sailing resulted in the inadvertent cutting of a tow line, while Obama’s circular firing squad pits every hand on deck against everyone else. While they are busy arguing about the debt ceiling, Moody’s and S&P are getting ready to slash the tow line—onto which Treasury Secretary Geithner is desperately holding. Excuses aside, it was Captains Queeg and Obama who let their ships sail in circles.

Queeg ultimately took the witness stand and blamed all of his tour’s failures on everyone else. In the process, Queeg ended up displaying his psychological shortcomings. I could not help but think of Queeg’s testimony when Obama addressed the nation on Monday night (July 25) to explain why all the problems on his ship had nothing whatsoever to do with who was placed at the top of the chain of command. I was half expecting Obama to start fiddling with ball bearings while he mumbled about a “second key” to the Social Security “lock box,” and Obama’s obsession with corporate jets brought to mind Queeg’s obsession with “the strawberries.”

Captain Queeg cracked under pressure, but he was an experienced Navy veteran who had seen years of stressful duty. Despite his record of accomplishments, he had to be relieved of his duty because he had regrettably become a risk to the Navy.

Captain Obama is cracking under pressure not because he has seen too many years of stressful duty, but because he has seen none and therefore has no idea how to deal with it. He is a rookie who managed to convince 53 percent of the population that he is capable of command. But he is not brimming with experience; he is merely full of himself. Like Captain Queeg, Captain Obama also needs to be relieved of his duty—before he runs the ship of state aground.

*Don Fredrick*  
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