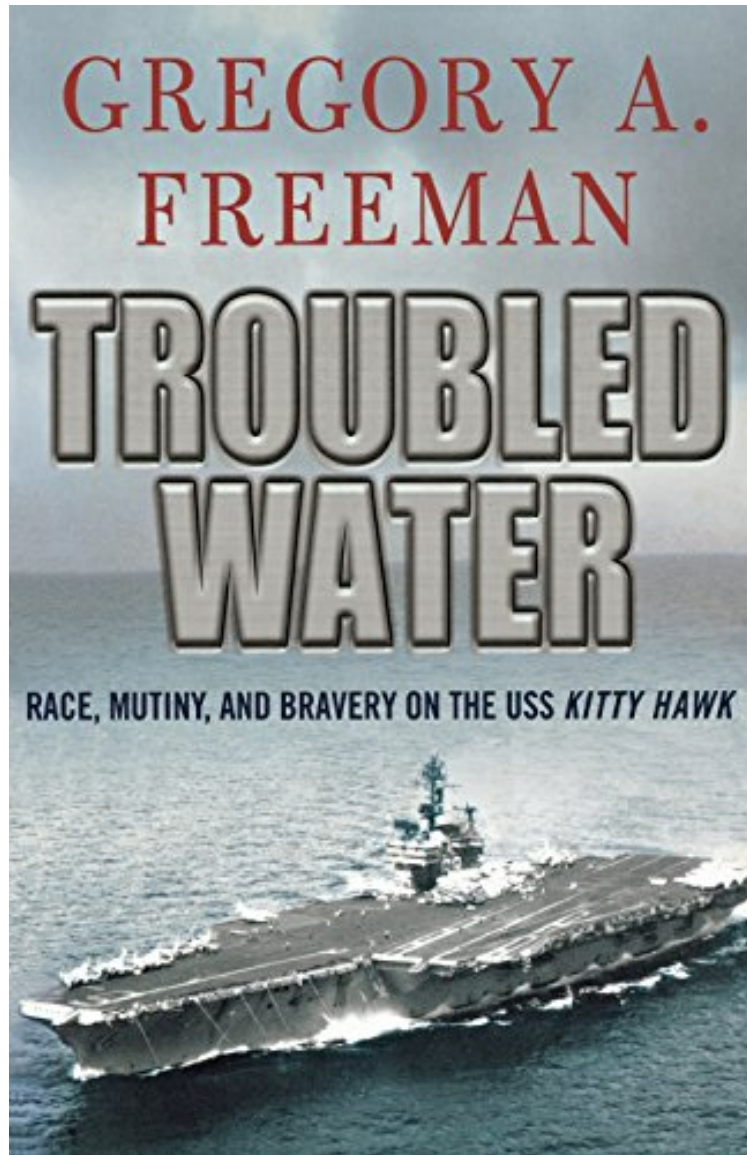


Troubled Water: Race, Mutiny, and Bravery on the USS Kitty Hawk

Gregory A. Freeman

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#377224 in Books Gregory Freeman 2010-11-09 2010-11-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .62 x 5.50l, .65 #File Name: 0230103391272 pagesTroubled Water Race Mutiny and Bravery on the USS Kitty Hawk | File size: 24.Mb

Gregory A. Freeman : Troubled Water: Race, Mutiny, and Bravery on the USS Kitty Hawk before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Troubled Water: Race, Mutiny, and Bravery on the USS Kitty Hawk:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another amazing book from this authorBy LdymprAnother amazing book from this author. Even though I was young when the Vietnam War started, I had family members in the war and it tears my heart to this day how people were treated back then could we treat our own people this wayThe long deployments a war that was contentious at best.I went into the Marine Corps part of the first women to be accepted it was late seventies so I served with many people that went through this. Women at the time that I went into the core more frowned upon and hazed but I don't think to the extent of this storyThank you for writing this book and thank you to all the veterans that got caught up in this situation and like I said it breaks my heart to know that you had to do this1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ONCE YOU START, YOU WONT WANT TO PUT IT DOWNBy Mark D30 plus in the military, and never heard of the events that took place on the Kitty Hawk. It takes you back to such a complex time in American history, with race relations that impact every segment of society, including a military. The author handles the complex issues, with respect to all, and all the while making it a book you just can not put down.Mark D19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. A critical history but at the end it fell shortBy Jon GordonWhile *Troubled Water* graphically described a relatively small but violent race riot that broke out aboard the USS Kitty Hawk in 1972, really the aircraft carrier is but a backdrop for a much larger story. If one was to read the book and conclude that the author, Gregory Freeman, presented a microcosm of race relations as they then existed in the armed forces, one would have missed the point of the story. Really, and Freeman made the point, *Troubled Water* described the consequences of the Defense Department's Project 100,000, a program "set out to recruit primarily inner-city youths who were previously considered ineligible for military service because of low test scores," past drug use, and criminal convictions. Implemented by President Johnson in 1966 as part of the War on Poverty, Project 100,000 set a goal of recruiting 40,000 previously unqualified applicants for entry into the armed forces. Thereafter, 100,000 recruits per annum would be accepted with the goal being to use the military as a catalyst to elevate people, primarily minorities, out of poverty. The Project ended in 1971 after 354,000 men had entered the armed forces under the less rigorous standards. According to Freeman, the Navy found "that many Project 100,000 recruits . . . were not useful assets" and that there was "no evidence to support the hypothesis that military service offer[ed] a 'leg up'" to disadvantaged youth who lacked the necessary intellectual capacities to perform within military environments. The Project, said Freeman, "was one reason why the Kitty Hawk was staffed with plenty of disgruntled black sailors who had little to lose by disobeying orders or performing poorly." Just as the Kitty Hawk provided the backdrop for the racial tensions that resulted from the Project's stated goal of social reengineering, Terry Avinger, a sailor aboard the carrier and one of the riot's primary protagonists, exemplified the type of individual that entered the military under the program. Poorly educated and a gang member and drug user, Avinger was going to be separated while still in basic training but the military gave him a second chance. After being assigned to the Kitty Hawk, Avinger assaulted another sailor and was confined to the brig. While in confinement, he wrote a letter to the ship's commander and asked for another chance. Moved, the captain granted his request and enrolled him in jet maintenance to hopefully keep him more "focused and motivated." Avinger then rewarded the Navy and his commander for placing their trust and confidence in him - he started a race riot. While Freeman's recitation of the riot was completely absorbing, the actions of the Kitty Hawk's commander, Captain Marland W. "Doc" Townsend and her executive officer, Commander Benjamin W. Cloud, are extraordinary to consider. Upon reporting to the Kitty Hawk, Cloud became the first black person assigned to the command structure of a supercarrier. When the riot broke out, Townsend walked from one end of the carrier to the other issuing orders to cease and desist. Cloud tried to mediate by rendering black power salutes and empathizing with the rioters. While one may agree or disagree with their approaches, both clearly did the best they could under the circumstances. Townsend did what he was supposed to do - he commanded. Cloud employed empathy and sympathy in order to quell the disturbance, a common method used in conflict resolution. While Townsend was nonplused by Cloud's actions, to his credit, he eventually understood them, although he may still have disagreed. The actions of both are worth studying and analyzing, particularly for anyone in a supervisory or command position. The only deficiency in the book pertained to the epilogue. A race riot had broken out on an American warship operating in a war zone. One would have to assume that there were consequences, or perhaps there were not, with the Navy sidestepping the issue to assuage racial tensions. It was not clear. Freeman simply alluded to some criminal charges, some of which were eventually dropped, but the specifics were not presented. Such information would have been important to the complete telling of the story and as it was, it ended prematurely. In writing *Troubled Waters*, Freeman created a seminal work in which there is a dearth of information. The book would be extremely valuable to anyone studying the methodologies and consequences of using the military or any other hierarchical organization as an instrument of social change. And for the history student studying the Viet Nam era, the draft, military policies, race relations, and the like, *Troubled Waters* is a must read.

In 1972, the United States was embroiled in an unpopular war in Vietnam, and the USS Kitty Hawk was headed to her station in the Gulf of Tonkin. Its five thousand men, cooped up for the longest at-sea tour of the war, rioted--or, as *Troubled Water* suggests, mutinied. Disturbingly, the lines were drawn racially, black against white. By the time order was restored, careers were in tatters. Although the incident became a turning point for race relations in the Navy, this

story remained buried within U.S. Navy archives for decades. With action pulled straight from a high seas thriller, Gregory A. Freeman uses eyewitness accounts and a careful and unprecedented examination of the navy's records to refute the official story of the incident, make a convincing case for the U.S. navy's first mutiny, and shed new light on this seminal event in American history.

Even though the U.S. government continues to deny it, Gregory Freeman has dug out the true hidden story of the first mutiny in the history of the U.S. Navy. You'll enjoy this high seas thriller. James Bradley, author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Flyboys*, and *The Imperial Cruise* This is a real nail-biter, a genuine page-turner. Just when you thought you had heard everything about carrier operations during the Vietnam War, here is the story of the mutiny that the US Navy didn't want you to know about. Page, by agonizing page, you are below deck as everything unravels and everything you thought you knew proves to be wrong. It's always exciting to read a book that provides new or overlooked information about events you thought were set in stone within the historical record, but in *Troubled Water*, Gregory Freeman not only tells you about it, he takes you there -- aboard the USS *Kitty Hawk*, as mutineers gradually alter the course of an American warship from measured precision to chaos and anarchy. Bill Yenne, Author of *Aces High*, the Heroic Saga of the Two Top-Scoring American Aces of WWII. and *Rising Sons: The Japanese-American GIs Who Fought for the US in WWII* Gregory Freeman is a master of riveting and thoughtful examinations of military sagas that no one else has the courage to take on. *Troubled Water* is his finest book in a distinguished career. Gregg Olsen, author of *Heart of Ice* and *A Wicked Snow* About the Author Gregory A. Freeman is an award-winning writer with more than 25 years experience in journalism and historical nonfiction. He has won over two dozen awards for his writing, including the coveted Sigma Delta Chi Award for Excellence from the Society of Professional Journalists. His books include *The Forgotten 500: The Untold Story of The Men Who Risked All for the Greatest Rescue Mission of World War II*, *Lay This Body Down: The 1921 Murders of Eleven Plantation Slaves*, and the acclaimed *Sailors to the End: The Deadly Fire on the USS Forrester and the Heroes Who Fought it*. He lives in Roswell, Georgia.