



Who's In Charge?

A New Book Reveals "Gaps" In Obama's Leadership Approach

EARLY IN HIS TERM, OBAMA'S RESPONSE TO REPUBLICAN QUESTIONS WAS "I'M IN CHARGE HERE"

In Obama's Initial Meetings With Congressional Leaders, His Response To Republican Questions Was "Look I Won. I'm In Charge Here." "He displayed 'two sides' of his personality in early meetings with congressional leaders, Woodward said. 'There's this divided-man quality to President Obama always. Initially he meets with the congressional leaders, he says you know, 'We're going to be accommodating, we're going to listen, we're going to talk, we're going to compromise,' Woodward said. 'But then they -- Republicans ask some questions and challenge him a little bit and he says, 'Look I won. I'm in charge here,'" Woodward continued. 'And the Republicans feel totally isolated and ostracized. And this was the beginning of a war.'" (Rick Klein, "Woodward: 'Gaps' In Obama's Leadership Contributed To Debt Deal Collapse," [ABC News](#), 9/10/12)

- **Asked If Obama "Wasn't Ready For The Job Of Being President," Author Bob Woodward Said "There's Evidence That There Are Gaps... He Did Not Fix This."** "Asked if Obama simply wasn't ready for the job of being president, Woodward responded: 'I am not ducking this. I am weighing evidence, and there's evidence that he got on top of a lot of things, he did a lot of things. And there's evidence that there are gaps,' he said. 'He did not fix this.' Woodward places particular blame for the failure to reach a deal with Obama, writing that the seeds of discord were planted early in his administration." (Rick Klein, "Woodward: 'Gaps' In Obama's Leadership Contributed To Debt Deal Collapse," [ABC News](#), 9/10/12)

OBAMA WASN'T EVEN "IN CHARGE" OF HIS OWN PARTY

Then-Speaker Of The House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) Hit "Mute" On A Conference Call With Obama

During A 2009 Conference Call, Then-Speaker Of The House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) Put Obama On Mute And "Got Back To The Hard Numbers" While He Continued Speaking. "Woodward writes about the 2009 conference call: 'Warming to his subject, he (Obama) continued with an uplifting speech. Pelosi reached over and pressed the mute button. They could hear Obama, but now he couldn't hear them. The president continued speaking, his disembodied voice filling the room, and the two leaders got back to the hard numbers.'" (David Jackson, "Pelosi Denies Muting Obama On Phone Call," [USA Today](#), 9/8/12)

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) Told Obama To Leave The Room During A White House Meeting

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) Asked Obama To Leave The Room During A White House Meeting So The Congressional Leaders Could Negotiate The Debt Limit Privately. “Boehner said he believed that he and the others — Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi — had a plan. He told Obama: We think we can work this out. Give us a little more time. We’ll come back to you. We are not going to negotiate this with you. Obama objected, saying that he couldn’t be left out of the process. ‘I’ve got to sign this bill,’ he reminded the leaders as they sat in the Cabinet Room off the Oval Office. ‘Mr. President,’ Boehner challenged, ‘as I read the Constitution, the Congress writes the laws. You get to decide if you want to sign them.’ Reid, the most powerful Democrat on Capitol Hill, spoke up. The congressional leaders want to speak privately, he said. Give us some time. This was it. Congress was taking over. The leaders were asking the president to leave the meeting he had called in the White House.” (Bob Woodward, “Inside Story Of Obama’s Struggle To Keep Congress From Controlling Outcome Of Debt Ceiling Crisis,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/8/12)

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s Chief Of Staff “Blasted” Obama During An Oval Office Meeting

Reid’s Chief Of Staff David Krone Criticized Obama In The Oval Office For Being Unprepared To Negotiate With Republicans: “It Is Really Disheartening That You, That This White House Did Not Have A Plan B.” “The climax comes when Harry Reid’s chief of staff David Krone accuses the White House of being ill-prepared to handle the tough stance House Republicans were taking: ‘Mr. President, I am sorry — with all due respect — that we are in this situation that we’re in, but we got handed this football on Friday night,’ [Krone says]. ‘And I didn’t create this situation. The first thing that baffles me is, from my private-sector experience, the first rule that I’ve always been taught is to have a Plan B. And it is really disheartening that you, that this White House did not have a Plan B.’” (Rob Wile, “WOODWARD: White House Got Caught Flatfooted, Senate Was A Doormat In Debt Ceiling Deal,” [Business Insider](#), 9/10/12)

- **Woodward: “Several Jaws Dropped As The Hill Staffer Blasted The President To His Face.”**
(Rob Wile, “WOODWARD: White House Got Caught Flatfooted, Senate Was A Doormat In Debt Ceiling Deal,” [Business Insider](#), 9/10/12)