

CHAPTER 12: AUGUST AND RESPECTABLE ASSEMBLY

- A-After the war, NYC's money was pretty much gone. This, of course, worried Ham because he was a director at the Bank of New York.
 - He was scared people would fake poverty and scam their creditors.

GEORGE CLINTON

- Ham's biggest threat
- Super popular. Elected three times. An immovable presence in New York.
- He'd eventually serve SEVEN terms of Governor and two as Vice President (under both Jefferson and Madison)
- Chernow calls him a "pooh bah of the people"
 - Pooh Bah = a person having much influence or holding many offices at the same time, especially one perceived as pompously self-important.
 - During his time in office his title was: "His Excellency George Clinton, Esquire, the Governor-General and Commander-In-Chief, of all the militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the State of New York."and Protector of the Realm?! It's like Game of Thrones up in herrrrr.
- During the war, Ham and Clinton got along. That all changed when Ham married Eliza. Phil was Clinton's arch enemy.
- As time went on, Hamilton realized he thought Clinton sucked on his own. He did whatever was popular, especially during election time. He put Jefferson, Burr, and Clinton in the same category.
- Clinton didn't approve of banks and was super mean to Loyalists. Okay, more than mean. He had them tarred and feathered (STAAHHHHPPP), whipped, fined, banished - everything terrible you could think of, he did.
- Clinton preferred to New York over national unity. Ham disagreed.
- Clinton had a lot of taxes and kept all the money, even if the goods didn't end up in New York. It was so tense that people feared a civil war.

HAMILTON AS AN ASSEMBLYMAN

- In April 1786, Hamilton was elected to a one year term in the New York Assembly. He tried to act all dramatic, writing he was feeble and reluctant. Not so much. He was SUPER PSYCHED to fight for this.
- While in Assembly, Hamilton supported a bill making it impossible for people who divorced because of adultery to remarry. Riiiiight. But... wouldn't he want the opposite?
- Ummmmm ALSO, there was a bill being debated about deterring mothers of illegitimate babies from KILLING THE BABIES AT BIRTH!!! And the bill said the mother essentially had to have an alibi who'd say the baby was stillborn or died from natural causes. Hamilton thought it was ridiculous to make a mother admit she had an illegitimate child. He fought very, very hard against it. And he won.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

- Well, before that they had an Annapolis Convention.
- On his way to Annapolis, he writes to Eliza, "Think of me with as much tenderness as I do of you and we cannot fail to always be happy." <3
- At Annapolis they basically said, "you guys we need a better convention." Everyone decides to get all the states to send delegates to a convention in Philly to amend the Articles of Confederation.
- This was mostly because of how awful everything was. Remember how poor everyone was after the Revolution? Enter Shays' Rebellion.
 - Named after one of its leaders Daniel Shays. Rural turmoil in Massachusetts. Farmers uprising that was so bad said it looked like the American Revolution all over again.
 - ONCE AGAIN, while Hamilton didn't 100% disagree with the sentiment, he really hated how they went about it. This is a trend. He wrote about it in Federalist Paper #6. This uproar only proved his point that a central government was so needed.
- The Convention was all about privacy. Drawn blinds, etc. This made it the stuff of legend.
- The same room where the Declaration of Independence was signed.
- Small room where you could talk in a conversation way. Not this big, grand space.
- Madison was in the middle so he could take minutes
- 55 delegates represented twelve states. Rhode Island boycotted the Convention.
- All white, educated males. Property owners. 9 Princeton graduates, 4 from Yale, 3 from Harvard. Average of 42 years old. Hamilton, 32, and Madison, 36 were among the youngest.
- Ham meets Ben Franklin

THE VIRGINIA PLAN

- Formulated mostly by Madison
- Two branches
- States with a large population, like Virginia (which was the most populous state at the time), would have more representatives than smaller states. Guess who liked it and who hated it?

THE NEW JERSEY PLAN

- Single chamber and every state had one vote

"HIS OWN PLAN FOR A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT"

- First of all, not THAAAAT crazy of an idea because it was the reason they were all there to begin with.
- Always one for the drama, Hamilton was pretty silent during all of these conversations... until he spoke for SIX EFFING HOURS. He didn't even break for lunch!
- The room (where it happened....?) was small, hot, stifling, and miserable. But Hamilton was courageous and well spoken.
- The silence was uncharacteristic but he did not disappoint when he finally spoke up. Well, he was true to Ham form at least.

OKAY, SO WHAT WAS HAM'S PLAN?

- Ham was all about unity.
- He took what he thought were the best ideas from all around the world. And a lot of them just happened to be from Britain so haters called it The British Plan
- The President would serve a life term. Yeahhhhh kinda like a monarchy, but here's the difference:
 - 1) the president would be chosen by people chosen by the people (not a typo)
 - 2) the "for life" thing depending on their "GOOD BEHAVIOR." Ha! Hamilton, always making sure people lived up to the right standards.
 - 3) Hamilton thought serving for life would bring stability. How could someone get anything done if they only served for a few years? And wouldn't the President just focus on getting elected and not serving the people? EXCELLENT QUESTIONS. Ham wins again.
- "And you talk about Congress?!" Yes, two chambers.
 - 1) Senate = The Nation's elite and elected for life.
 - 2) Assemblymen who were elected for three year terms.
- When it came to the courts, there would be Supreme Court and a series of smaller national courts. All national court justices would serve life terms.
- He knew his opinion was in the minority but he needed to express it anyway. That's Ham in a nutshell. One of many nutshells.
- Page 231: "And what even is The Virginia Plan, but democracy checked by democracy, or port with a little change of sauce?" - can't you see him doing that dance Lin does where he flips his coat tails up? The same gif we used for the 16 Tony noms!

CONNECTICUT COMPROMISE aka THE GREAT COMPROMISE

- What they landed on. Hence, compromise. It's what we have today.
- House of Representatives is all about the state population, but everyone is equally represented in the Senate

COMMITTEE OF STYLE AND ARRANGEMENT

- To put it simply, Hamilton was involved in making the Constitution look good. Perfecting its prose, re-arranging things.
- Madison was on this committee too
- As was a dude named Gouverneur Morris who was A CHARACTER. He had a peg leg, he was over the top, and you couldn't NOT look at him - good or bad.

HAMILTON VS. CLINTON: AFTER THE CONVENTION

- During the Convention, Hamilton was stuck with who other delegates from New York who were straight up Clintonians: John Lansing and Robert Yates. They both disagreed with him constantly.
- When it was over, they threw the whole secrecy thing out the window and told Clinton EEEEEEEVERYTHING that happened.
- That didn't sit well with Ham. It was a betrayal.
- Rumors spread like crazy. One of them involved the delegates bringing over King George's son to head the American monarchy. Interestingly enough, Hamilton traced his rumor back to none other than JAMES REYNOLDS. Even better, it said...!
- Clinton put it out there that Hamilton wasn't really that close with George Washington and it was all superficial. Ham wrote to GWash, "This, I confess, hurts my feelings." SADFACE (page 237). Washington had his back. Phew.

END POINTS

- Hamilton and Madison are known as the most influential people at the convention.
- People were always jumping down Ham's throat for something. Then again, it's Ham.
- Even when Hamilton signed the new Constitution, people were suspicious. When others are flexible and compromise people understand it's - to quote The Wire - all in the game. When Ham did it, people thought he was fake. He spoke out against things so much that any change of tune at all looked shady.