

CHAPTER 20: CORRUPT SQUADRONS aka WASHINGTON ON YOUR SIDE

OUR POOREST CITIZENS, OUR FARMERS LIVE RATION TO RATION

- There have been several financial setbacks for Ham from the banks to the manufacturing society
- The fact that he was still thriving and basically “running the country” for Washington naturally continued to tick Jefferson & Madison off. So what do they do to retaliate? They set off on on a “botanising tour” ... A BOTANISING TOUR! *crickets* Really holding strong to that agriculture bias, guys.
 - Also, who are they? Sabbath? The Stones? They’re basically Stillwater - trying SUPER HARD to make it work but it’s just drama and nonsense the entire way.
- The wild and crazy botanising tour of 1791 consisted Jefferson and Madison making their way through New York up to Lake George and then down through New England where they were very Pro-Ham
- Jefferson even noted that it was in New England where the biggest support for a King, Lord and Commons were. You see where this is going ...
- Although they took a bunch of notes on trees and flowers (as you do) there was a more sinister plan afoot. They were deliberately trying to make inroads in the north to stop the spread of Hamilmania

SOMEBODY HAS TO STAND UP FOR THE SOUTH

- The South was wildly discontent and Madison and Jefferson met with Robert Livingston and Aaron Burr (who has recently replaced Papa Schuyler in the senate) - also Aaron Burr! Cue “There you are, Peter” gif
- This meeting piqued the suspicions of Robert Troup who sensed they were scheming to bring down Hamilton under his nose. He wrote to him “Delenda est Carthago”, Carthage must be destroyed and obliterated. This comparison to Roman history and war signaled the brutal warfare that was about to tear Ham and Jeff apart for good.
- At first Ham and Jeff got along and Jefferson is quoted as saying “each of us perhaps thought well of the other man”. Eventually their diametrically opposite political views made them unable to stand each other.
 - Jefferson told John Adams he “did not love difficulties” and we all know how much Ham loved the dramz and created it whenever possible.

OUR CABINET’S FRACTURED INTO FACTIONS

- The sudden formation of political parties came about and really made things messy in the 1790’s
- Nowadays we are very used to our two-party system but at the time the parties were indeed viewed as warring factions that has no business being part of a “true republic” and Hamilton referred to them as “the most fatal disease” (p. 390)
- Despite all that, Hamilton is basically directly responsible for the formation of parties. His views and personality united all his Hamifans thereby becoming known as Federalists.
 - By using the term for supporters of the Constitution, it automatically implied that their opponents did NOT support the Constitution.
 - They were “allied with powerful banking and merchant interests in New England and on the Atlantic seaboard and were disproportionately Congregationalists and Episcopalians.” (page 391)
- Simultaneously, Jefferson and Madison organized their supporters in opposition and called themselves Republican. A nod to the Roman republic and a not so subtle way of saying that Federalists were not in favor of a Republic and were therefore of course ... MONARCHISTS.

SOUTHERN MOTHERFUCKIN' DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANS

So what were they all about:

- They were mostly Baptist or Methodist
- Relied on rich southern planters and small farmers. (Cue the Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson melody: AGRICULTURE YEA, YEA!)
- Jefferson distinguished the two parties by saying that Federalists believed that the executive branch of government needed the most support and Republicans believe it is already too strong for the constitution and they favor the legislative branch.
- Most importantly, the Republicans were united in simply being Anti-Ham and everything he stood for.

Some other interesting points:

1) It's important to note that this wasn't really about the haves vs. the have nots, but it was about two rival economic systems. Chernow points out that Federalists had a lot of self-made lawyers in their ranks, and the Republicans were started by Jefferson and Madison who were both super rich (because of inherited wealth).

2) Political parties were considered so bad and scary that politicians actually avoided being involved and would LIE if they were. The parties were had this "fear of the unknown" vibe to them that they were laced with paranoia.

- Not to mention that at the time, people didn't realize that parties would go back and forth in power. And how could they know that, right? But they were terrified because they thought that whichever party came out in power would be in power forever. And ever. And ever and ever and evaaaaahhhhhh.

3) Lastly, Chernow says they weren't even actually parties yet and he describes them as "amorphous personality cults. It was as if the parties were projections of individual politicians." (page 392)

- This meant that Hamilton would be even more aware of his reputation and he'd be even MORE sensitive about his personal honor... if that was even possible.

FRANCE IS ON THE VERGE OF WAR WITH ENGLAND

As if we didn't have enough internal arguing and disagreements to deal with. It was heightened by the situation in Europe between Britain and France

- The most obvious reason for the debate was that the Colonists had just fought a war against England AND who provided aid? ...France
- In a more metaphorical sense England & France served as examples of the two types of societies that were at odds here in America. Jefferson and Madison saw Hamilton as pro-British and were worried his policies would mimic theirs which they hated so much. And Hamilton saw the French Revolution as a cautionary tale of a revolution that was in the end a failure. So really this all still ties back to Federalists and Anti-Federalists having the same arguments.
- Jefferson also had a personal grudge against England because in 1786 he visited there and as Chernow says, received a "glacial reception" (great phrase). From then on he had his knickers in a twist and maintained that their king, ministers, and entire nation hate us.
- Hamilton can't necessarily dispute that however as he never visited Britain. So it was easier for him to warm to them. But since the memories of the Rev War were still fresh in the minds of Americans, Hammy had to work hard to convince the people that the British would make a better trading partner than the French.
 - Also, if we traded with England we'd get things we needed on a daily basis like "cutlery, pottery, and the like" and France was offering up "wine, brandy, women's hosiery, and other luxury goods" - all awesome things, France, just... kinda not what Hamilton thought we needed to be focusing on.
- And because Chernow can't resist a jab at Jefferson, he says: "It was France, not England, that had long been associated with despotic government, and Hamilton's high praise for England was not as heretical as Jefferson pretended it was." PRETENDED IT WAS, YOU GUYS.

Sidenote: Americans were insulted that Britain didn't send a representative since the Revolution. Maybe because everyone hated each other? Hamilton told George Beckwith, an "informal emissary of the British government" (page 394) that he thought it would be a good look it Britain to named an official ambassador and granted full diplomatic status to the United States. Andddd guess what they did!

- Enter George Hammond, the 28-year-old diplomat who had many private conversations with A.Ham. Chernow says Hammond withheld his credentials from Washington until the US agreed to post an envoy to London.
 - Apparently Hammond showed up at a very critical time because both sides were still disagreeing about who reneged on the peace treaty.
 - The US hated on Britain for not surrendering northwest forts and also not compensating planters for slaves (ughhh) and Britain hated on the US for the prewar debts/creditors debacle.
 - Hamilton was like, "...okay fine. Britain, you guys give up the forts and in return we'll made good on the debts okay byeeeee."
 - HOWEVER! Chernow says: "Hamilton again refused to push vigorously [for] compensation for emancipated slaves - a vital point for Jefferson. When Hammond downgraded the importance of this item, he noted with pleasure that Hamilton 'seemed partly to acquiesce' in his reasoning." (395)
 - Jefferson was super rude to Hammond and Hamilton had to apologize for him. This worked against Jefferson because people preferred to work with Hamilton over him.

IT MUST BE NICE ... IT MUST BE NIIIIIIICE

Washington continues to side with Hamilton over Jefferson and Madison on everything. They held so many of the same values and Washington relied on Hamilton's vast knowledge and was easily influenced by him.

- Washington was seen as untouchable and to go against him was political suicide. Uh oh, Republicans! Oh hey no problem they'll just attack Hamilton instead. Chernow says Ham became the "necessary boogeyman." (page 395)

How does Jefferson respond to this? Chernow throws shade AGAIN by describing Jefferson as a "proficient political ventriloquist." !!!! He wanted to attack Hamilton but not give away that it was him doing so. He used a poet names Philip Freneau to be his mouthpiece. At the center of this back and forth taunting were two newspapers: Gazette of the United States and the National Gazette.

1. Gazette of the United States

- Edited by John Fenno, a Boston Schoolmaster who adored Hamilton. Hammy was influential in Fenno starting the paper in 1789 and helped rescue it from financial distress later on.
- It was "quasi-official" since Fenno was a government employee
- Jefferson regarded the paper as a bit of "pure Toryism, disseminating the doctrines of monarchy, aristocracy, and the exclusion of the influence of the people" (p. 396-397)

2. National Gazette

- Jefferson and Madison task Freneau with being a direct opponent to Fenno by making him the editor of what will be a Republican newspaper.
- Fenno was a friend and classmate of Madison's while at Princeton.
- During the Revolution he was captured by the British and spent 6 weeks aboard a prison ship leaving him with a lifelong hatred for the Brits
- Madison persuaded Jefferson to lure Freneau to Philadelphia to take on the job of State Department translator for \$250/year despite the fact that the only foreign language he knew was French and he was not well qualified for the job. He agreed to take the job and on October 31st the National Gazette debuted as the leading Republican voice in America.

- Riiiiight so the “translator job” was total bullshit and it was just a way to get him to Philly and give him nothing to do, so he had plenty of time to start a rival paper. But Jefferson threw him random menial jobs so it’ll look like it was on the up and up. CHERNOW SEES YOU, TJEFF.
- Also known as the “poet of the revolution” because of his scathing words the monarchy, most notables referring to King George III as “the Caligula of Great Britain” and said Washington was “a second Diomedes[s]” whose actions might have awed a ‘Roman Hero or a Grecian God.’” (page 396)

WE SMACK EACH OTHER IN THE PRESS AND WE DON’T PRINT RETRACTIONS

- So here’s the thing about newspapers... EVERYTHING WAS BANANAS! There wasn’t a code of conduct or any rules or anything about being decent to each other, nothing! Jefferson himself said, “Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper.” (Page 397).
 - It became a sport. It was vicious and ridiculous and OH WAIT SOUND FAMILIAR?!
- Madison was able to be more vocal about his support of The National Gazette and oh believe you me, he was. He called Freneau a “man of genius.” (Page 397)
- Chernow says at this point in the 1790s, “*monarchy* and *aristocracy* were standard code words for Hamilton and the Federalists.” (Page 397)
- Freneau painted Jefferson as an “illustrious patriot” and mocked Hamilton by comparing him to “Atlas” They attacked Washington as well “Shall Washington, my fav’rite child, / be ranked ‘mongst the haughty kings?” (p 400)
- Papers at this time did not hide their political leanings and in fact didn’t do much legitimate reporting. They more closely resembled opinion journals. Articles and letters were rarely signed. Hamilton published under a plethora of pseudonyms (“I’ll write under a pseudonym you’ll see what I can do to him”) - though people usually knew who was doing writing.
- This style of “anonymous” attacks allowed for more a more vile and contentious atmosphere to penetrate the political landscape. Everyone’s so brave hiding behind a pen name ... or in today’s world, a computer screen.
- Hamilton eventually had enough of being so viciously attacked and on May 26, 1792 he wrote a letter to Edward Carrington, a revenue supervisor in Virginia. In it he basically declared war against Jefferson and Madison (excerpt on p. 401) - “I am now satisfied” YOU GUYS CAN YOU STAND IT
 - Hamilton was more upset with Madison’s betrayal than Jefferson’s. Hamilton saw Jefferson as a fanatic, but he once knew Madison as an honorable man and that stings even more. He saw Madison drinking the Jefferson kool-aid and that was a bummer. Madison’s opinion was “one of a peculiarly artificial and complicated kind.” (also page 401)
 - We’ve mentioned this in previous outlines, but Lin subtly shows this with the Madison/Jefferson relationship in the show. Madison catches the mic, Madison says, “...France” after Jefferson reminded Madison where he was! Think about the layers of that. “Where have you been?” “Uh, FRANCE.” ie: “Uh, don’t you know that?!” And then in the Cabinet Battle, Jefferson makes Madison SAY THE WORD FRANCE! That should make your brain explode a little.
- Hamilton ONCE AGAIN tried to convince everyone that he wasn’t the worst person in the world, and said that he wanted to give the Constitution every single chance possible! (excerpt from page 401) If he wanted to be the worst, then he would actually be the worst. Cue Jesse Eisenberg as Mark Zuckerberg: “If you guys were the inventors of Facebook, you’d’ve invented Facebook.”

“The period of covert skirmishing had ended. Open warfare had begun.” - Page 402

- Washington was in NO MOOD to put up with this shit. He was now an older man suffering from rheumatism, and painful denatures crafted out of hippopotamus tusks which irritated him constantly. To make matters worse, The National Gazette ran a front page article for July 4th that laid out the “rules for changing a limited government into an unlimited hereditary one” naming Hamilton’s programs as the most effective ways of doing so. Freneau, wishing to poke the bear in the zoo further, had 3 copies of The Gazette delivered to Washington daily.
- On July 25th Hamilton shot back in Fenno’s Gazette of the United States (couldn’t we pick another word other than Gazette?). In an uncharacteristic move from Ham, it was only ONE PARAGRAPH long. The letter, signed T.L. brought up the subject of Freneau’s salary from the State Department, questioning whether he was actually being paid for his translations or his “publications” clearly pointing to the fact that he was Jefferson and Madison’s puppet in the press. The best part is that he was able to slay and have such an impact in that one paragraph and didn’t need to write a 50,000 word essay. (“As long as he can hold a pen he’s a threat.”) Drop the mic Ham *BOOM*
- By August 3rd Hamilton had sent a letter to Mt. Vernon begging Washington to run for reelection and told him that if he didn’t do so that it would be “the greatest evil” that could befall the country at the present time. Feeling the pressure from the other side he then published another critique of Jefferson in the Gazette of the United States. This time using the slick pseudonym “An American” (Musical?). No one will ever figure it out ... This time he named names calling out Freneau’s Gazette as having been set up by Jefferson and Madison. Um shout out to Lin because on Page 404 Chernow LITCHRALLY writes, “Hamilton raised the stakes markedly by naming names.”
 - #WickedMockery needs to be a thing (page 404)
- Because Hamilton was Hamilton he released two more installments of “An American (Musical??? Right? It just rolls off the tongue) on August 11th and 18th so once again dude is nonstop
 - We all know “Here’s an itemized list of 30 years of disagreements (sweet Jesus)” - In a sadder turn of events, Hamilton wrote the opposite version of that to Washington. Hamilton admitted that these attacks hurt his feelings but he also said oh hey I have merit and if you forget how about you remember what I’ve done so far? HERE’S AN ITEMIZED LIST MR. PRESIDENT. (page 404) PS: it was 14,000 words. He could deal with people criticizing his judgement but not his integrity (foreshadowing to the Reynolds Pamphlet!)
 - He mentioned his economic feats, how he dropped interest rates, influx of foreign money that helped pay for commerce and agriculture, the fact that money was available for new business.
 - Which of course makes Jefferson’s “daddy’s callin’” line even saltier because clearly Hamilton really wanted Washington to approve of what he’s done
- I love Chernow’s line: “How to explain this mix of elevated thinking and base slander?” (405)
- This press slapping had gotten so heated that by the end of August, Washington sent a letter to Ham begging him to find mutual tolerance with Jefferson and Madison. He was afraid that this would all come to such a boil that it would dissolve the union completely.
- Rather than appease Washington’s pleas, Hamilton ramped up his attacks. In a letter dated September 9th he expressed appreciation for Washington’s attempt at reconciliation but maintained that he was the injured party and not the one to blame in all this - “SIR, I DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD BUT WHATEVER IT WAS JEFFERSON STARTED IT!”
 - He told Washington that the National Gazette was started by TJeff to help him politically - not news to us, you guys. This is the world in which we live, only it’s a 24 hour news cycle.

- Hamilton was dead set on exposing Jefferson and Madison and not since the time he quit working for GWash, this was the next time he so blatantly disobeyed a direct order from Washington to back off. For the record, Jefferson refused to back off as well going so far as to finally put on display the disdain he had for Hamilton's humble beginnings and immigrant status: "I will not suffer my retirement to be clouded by the slanders of a man whose history, from the moment at which history can stoop to notice him, is a tissue of machinations against the liberty of the country which has not only received him and given him bread, but heaped its honors upon his head" (p. 406)
- CIVIS: Hamilton wrote under this name to call Jefferson out on all of his shit and he was so sure of himself he called his writings *Facts*. Hamilton called Jeffersonians out on the debt, their hypocrisy, the whole nine.
 - Enter "Catullus" - the other name for Ham, and in those essays he praised the work of the Treasury Secretary aka HIMSELF.
 - This is when Ham once again referred to TJeff as Caesar, and mentioned his affair with Sally Hemmings which Chernow says he knew about from Angelica Church.

SOMEBODY GIMME SOME DIRT ON THIS VACUOUS MASS SO WE CAN AT LAST UNMASK HIM

In 1818 Jefferson published a scrapbook of political conversations he had with people called the "Anas". By definition, an "Ana" is a collection of materials that reflect the character of a person or place. It included discussions he had with people regarding political intelligence and had the air of a gossip rag. Not surprisingly, Hamilton is featured prominently appearing in over 45 entries. Jefferson made sure to keep a record of and all of Hamilton's indiscretions no matter how reliable the source. Soooooo he had a Burn Book? Awesome, wow. Is Thomas Jefferson the Regina George of the Founding Fathers?? Is that a thing?! Again, Chernow with the shade: "Jefferson was credulous when it came to tales about Hamilton and believed implicitly in the Anglophile, royalist demon he conjured up." DEMON!! Alsooooo Hamilton died in 1804 so let that sink in for a second. Way to not let things go, TJeff.

- He is accused by Jefferson as being the head of a political faction hell bent on defeating the constitution and installing a British-style monarchy. I guess Jeff is going to ignore how Ham wrote THE OTHER FIFTY ONE Federalist Papers and helped to get the Constitution ratified ... NBD
- Jefferson included a story where Hamilton and Adams sang the praises of the British constitution, supposedly raising a glass to King George. TJeff also claims Hamilton said the greatest person to ever live with Julius Caesar. Here's the thing, TJ, you missed the joke because Hamilton compares YOU to Caesar when calling you a populist demagogue so he was totally messing with you.
- The problem with Jefferson's Anas though is not only that he often fabricated stories but he took gossip at face value and would take benign comments and blow them out of proportion.
- Jefferson also tried to warn G. Wash that Philip Schuyler had thrown his support behind "hereditary government" and that main objective of the Hamiltonian system was to pave the way for a change from the present government model to that of a Monarchy. Washington knew his right hand man well enough for the past 15 years however to not pay any attention to Jefferson's claims.

THE MEMOIR OF THEOPHILUS PARSONS

Even more damaging for Ham however came 55 years after his death in 1859

- Parsons was the Attorney General appointed by John Adams
- The book was published by his son 46 years after Theophilus' death and 55 after Hamilton's
- In the memoir a story is told (p. 398) where at a New York dinner party soon after the constitution was adopted a guest was speaking of the wisdom of the American people. Supposedly, Hamilton slams his fists on the table and yells "Your people sir - your people is a great beast!"

- Despite Theophilus' admission that this anecdote came not from himself but from a friend, to whom it was relayed by ANOTHER friend who was a guest at the table, it was endlessly used as a way to attack Hamilton and damage his reputation at every turn without any way from the man to defend himself.

THE VINDICATION OF MR. JEFFERSON

- Between September 26th and December 31st of 1792, six essays entitled "The Vindication of Mr. Jefferson" were published in the *American Daily Advertiser*.
 - Guess who wrote them? Soon-to-be-our-fifth-president Mr. (at the time) Senator James Monroe. Well he wrote five and Mr. Madison wrote one.
 - Before Madison wrote his contribution, he heard that Hamilton considered him a "personal and political enemy" (page 408) and then Madison was like IT'S ON.

I HAVE TO RESIGN

- Jefferson made one last attempt to convince Washington that Hamilton was conspiring to overtake America with his monarchistic plot.
- Washington finally lost his patience with this garbage and told Jeff he did not even think the idea was worth entertaining.
- He also told Jefferson that he still supported Hamilton's financial system because IT WORKED.
- Because of this Jefferson concluded that Washington's brain must be defective because he's old and sick and is willingly letting Hamilton act and think for him.
- He concludes that he needs to retire from the State Department

Chernow's final words: "The job had trapped him among political enemies, and he knew it would be easier to build up his following outside of office. There was no longer any point in trying to convert George Washington. Alexander Hamilton had won."

For now .. DUN DUN DUUUUUUUN

EXTRAS

- Jefferson went to Washington pretending to be all concerned about the post office. He claimed he wanted to make sure the post office was under his jurisdiction as Secretary of State because Hamilton is trying to ruin everything and "devour the government" with his Treasury. Jefferson of course claimed this wasn't about politics and then! He acted all gloomy at breakfast and complained that Hamilton doesn't look like he's going to leave his post and maybe Jefferson should just leave and everything that's wrong with this country is because of Hamilton and waaah waaah waaah. Washington fell for it! He asked TJeff to stay! Chernow says Hamilton didn't know about Jefferson's attempt to turn Washington against him (page 399)
- Oh and how timely is THIS? At one point Hamilton said he wanted to make sure he had the right to withhold sensitive information/documents about the Treasury from Congress. And Jefferson was like UM THAT'S INTERESTING WHY DO YOU WANT TO WITHHOLD THEM?!
 - Then Jefferson ran to Washington (also "daddy's callin'" totally applies to Jefferson I mean come on) and told him that Philip Schuyler once mentioned hereditary government in passing once at a dinner table so that MUST be what Hamilton is hiding.
- And yes, Madison is still hating on Hamilton. Madison tried to overpower the Treasury's "power to raise money for the army for an upcoming western expedition." (page 400) Madison failed but Hamilton was once again distraught that a former friend was acting against him.
- Page 406: "In fact, no immigrant in American history has ever made a larger contribution than Alexander Hamilton."