

The only thing Hamilton and Jefferson can agree on is that they both want GWash to stick around for a second term.

“North and South will hang together if they have you to hang on” - Jefferson to Washington (page 419). Way to take zero responsibility, guy. WHATEVER IT IS, JEFFERSON STARTED IT.

On the other hand, Hamilton wanted Washington to take another term because he was the only person who was on Hamilton's side. Ham wanted to strengthen the executive branch and we all know how everyone feels about that: they effing hate it and are super scared of it.

SIT DOWN, JOHN. ...wellllllll, not yet.

- Everyone is now shifting their focus to the vice presidency
- Hamilton always supported John Adams, and Abigail was vocally on #TeamHam
- At this point, Hamilton admits that maybe John Adams isn't perfect (Ham will later be the person who tells everyone why - because of course - but we'll get to that), he is “honest, firm, faithful, and independent, a sincere lover of this country, a real friend to genuine liberty... no man's private character can be fairer than his. No man has given stronger proofs than him of disinterested and intrepid patriotism.” Says Chernow: “Such glittering adjectives seldom flowed from Hamilton's captious quill.” FOR REAL (pages 419-420).
- Because Hamilton can't help himself, he pulled a Burr and offered John some free (unsolicited) advice. #TalkLess
 - Adams wasn't interested in finding any common ground with Hamilton because he was fine being his grumpy self and not participating in all the drama. And honestly, he gets points for that because this drama is E X H A U S T I N G.
 - HOWEVER, he was always leaving his post and taking extended vacations back home. “An Open Letter” on the Mixtape hits this HARD.
 - Hamilton warns John that if he wants to win against George Clinton (cue the funk) mayyyyyyybe he should consider sticking around? Maybe? Just an idea!
 - John Adams thinks this is ridiculous. He stubbornly doesn't listen to Hamilton and stays put at home with Abigail. He tells her it's inconceivable that the way less qualified George Clinton would be able to beat him out for VP.

WELL, IF IT ISN'T AARON BURR, SIR!

- Aaron Burr is back! And in a surprising move, he's letting everyone know that he's going to challenge John Adams as the Republican candidate for Vice President.
 - He's very attractive in the North, but people in the South were like YO WHO THE EFF IS THIS?
- Burr's support in the North was actually turning into a threat to John Adams' race... but only because of Adams' super fragile ego. People were worried that if Burr took points away from John, John would be SO INSULTED and then refuse to serve. Awesome, wow.
- Adams described Burr as - ready for this? - “fat as a duck and as ruddy as a roost cock.” (Page 421.) and Hamilton wasn't too psyched on him because he took the Senate seat from Papa Schuyler. Burr reallyyyyyyy knows how to pick his enemies, huh?
- Chernow says that Burr was a lone wolf who formed alliances for short-term gain.
 - This is when we start to see some real animosity between these two. Says Chernow: “...[Hamilton] became an immovable obstacle in the path of Aaron Burr's ambitions - a position he was to occupy so frequently in future years that it finally drove Burr into a frenzy.” (page 421)
- Cut to the New York gubernatorial race of 1792 and Burr is switching sides like nobody's business.
 - Fun fact: Stephen Van Rensselaer III aka Peggy's husband and Ham's brother-in-law was running for lieutenant governor.
 - IT'S A TIE and it actually came down to Burr this time. He chose George Clinton and everyone was annoyed and it made Burr's total lack of loyalty to anyone but himself super clear. Not a good look.

- This is especially true for Hamilton; Hamilton prided himself on principles and the fact that Burr didn't have a single one really, really pissed him off. "I am mistaken if it be not his object to play the game of confusion and I feel it a religious duty to oppose his career." AND SO IT BEGINS. (page 422).
- Chernow says that historians refer to this time as one of the first examples of party organization, even though people were still apprehensive to associate with a particular party.
 - Sidenote: There was a lot of drama in this election if you're interested: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_gubernatorial_election,_1792

HAMILHATERS ASSEMBLY!

- 1) John Beckley: House clerk who hated Hamilton with a passion and wrote letters hinting that he knew about the Reynolds affair.
- 2) John Mercer: aide-de-camp to Charles Lee and hated central government so much that he stormed out of the Constitutional Convention without signing the document.
 - i) Sidenote: NOT good ole General Mercer.
 - b) Mercer was a pro at bringing up Hamilton's past to spew more hate, like all the drama with William Duer. And once again, William Duer is being mentioned because this dude haunted Hamilton (and us, apparently) for the rest of his life.
 - i) Hamilton was so offended at this on-going charge of engaging in speculation that he almost challenged Mercer to a duel. He ended up showing up at the dude's house and demanded a satisfactory retraction... and he got it.
 - (1) Chernow reminds us that while Hamilton usually was against duels, he did everything he could to make sure all the lies about him were retracted from the press.

WASHINGTON AND ADAMS: THE SEQUEL

- The Jeffersonian Republican Party chooses George Clinton as their candidate for Vice Prez to run against John Adams.
- John Adams won by twenty seven votes. Adams: 77, Clinton: 50.
- Apparently people are now hating on the elective government, but this is coming from Jefferson's *Anas* which Chernow reminds us to "take with a pound of salt." POUND.
- Remember how Washington used to be immune from attacks in the press? Yeah that ship has sailed. He is now fair game and they are treating him anything but fairly.
 - Philip Freneau (of the pro-Jefferson/Madison National Gazette) accuses Washington of big timing everyone and hiding away in his fancy drawing rooms and secluding himself from the people. Chernow says that not only was this nonsense but it was completely unfair considering Washington had to be convinced to run again in the first place.
- The political tone during this second term is straight up awful. Hamilton is being attacked CONSTANTLY and it is really starting to wear on him.
 - He writes to John Jay: "'Tis the malicious intrigues to stab me in the dark, against which I am too often obliged to guard myself, that distract and harass me to a point which, rendering my situation scarcely tolerable, interferes with objects to which friendship and inclination would prompt me." (page 424).
 - He wrote this three days after the infamous "We Know" meeting with Muhlenberg, Venable, and Monroe. He knows the Reynolds affair is going to eventually bite him in the butt. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, ALEXANDER?!

IF WE DON'T STOP IT, WE AID AND ABET IT

- While Jefferson was lying to Washington saying that he'll try to put his rivalry with Hamilton aside for the greater good of the country, here's what was really going on: Thomas Jefferson and James Madison "were secretly

orchestrating the first concerted effort in American history to expel a cabinet member for official misconduct.” (page 425). I hope you’re ready because things are about to get INSANE.

- William Branch Giles: Chernow refers to him as a “frequent mouthpiece for Jefferson.” (page 425.)
 - Hamilton wanted to use loans from Europe to repay a government loan from the Bank of the United States.
 - It was 2 million dollars that the bank gave the federal government to buy stock in the bank itself.
 - Jeffersonians thought this money would take away from the money owed to ...france (of course). They also thought Hamilton would use funds from Europe to pay off speculators.

Fun fact! Using foreign loans for domestic issues is TECHNICALLY against the law but Hamilton said had had verbal approval from Washington. Ham. HAM. Why do you always give your haters more ammunition? Why?

- TWICE in December of 1792, the House demanded detailed reports of foreign loans. And even though he was super distracted by everything going on with the Reynolds affair, he managed to bang them out by January 3rd.
 - On January 23rd, in an effort to try to exhaust Hamilton even more, Giles asked for FIVE more reports, even more detailed than the first two.
 - They gave him what they thought was an impossible March 3rd deadline but hey guess what?! HAMILTON MET THE DEADLINE. Oh I’m sorry, no, he BEAT the deadline. Hamilton had everything done by FEBRUARY 19TH. You guys. They thought a month and a half was impossible and Ham was like HA THAT’S HILARIOUS I’LL DO IT IN LESS THAN A MONTH COME AT ME.
 - The report was 21,000 words and was packed with tables, lists, and statistics. He risked a complete physical breakdown but haters give Hamilton superhuman strength; he feeds off it and they give him the energy he needs to prove them wrong.
 - Unfortunately, his haters felt the same. The report did nothing to change anyone’s mind and in fact, it only made him more of a threat.
 - February 25th, 1793: Jefferson files an official inquiry with Washington to look into Hamilton and the entire Treasury Department. Washington gave him a hard no, so he went to Giles.
 - He gave Giles NINE resolutions censuring Hamilton. NINE! Jefferson, through Giles, is demanding that Washington fire Hamilton.
 - This means that not only is Jefferson trying to destroy things from within, but he is now the clear leader of the Republican party.
 - Chernow points out the irony in this: the dude accusing Hamilton of being shady and meddling with Congress is now sending secret notes and screwing with the administration he happens to be in.
 - The submitted these charges the night before a recess, hoping Hamilton wouldn’t be able to refute them. Too bad for them, the House was like NAH and voted down the resolutions.
 - Chernow says that Jefferson was kind of expecting this and didn’t mind it because even though nothing officially happened, he planted the seeds in everyone’s mind.
 - On the other hand, this made Hamilton look great. How could it not, right?
 - The only thing this big displayed proved was that Hamilton was found “guilty of excessive discretion in shifting money among accounts to insure that the government did not miss interest payments.” (page 427). I’m sorry, but I find this hilarious. Hamilton was found guilty of doing his job very, very well.
 - Even though the censures backfired, Hamilton is now exhausted in every sense of the word. He knows the attacks aren’t going to stop and he’s also now knows that Muhlenberg, Venable, and/or Monroe have broken the confidentiality agreement about the Reynolds affair. Word is starting to get around.
 - May, 1793: Hamilton gets a letter from Henry Lee saying: “Was I with you, I would talk an hour with doors bolted and windows shut, as my heart is much afflicted by some whispers which I have heard.” (Page 427) Which is a super beautiful and eloquent way of saying: “Alex... you in danger, girl.”

- While in reality the censures backfired, the paranoid Jeffersonians saw it as proof that legislators can never use independent judgement when it came to Hamilton. Orrrrr you were wrong? Is that not an option?
 - “At this stage, it grew more and more evident to Jefferson that he would have to perpetuate the struggle against the treasury secretary not from inside the government but from the safe haven of Monticello.” (page 428). #ChernowShade.

ET TU, FRAUNCES?

- Enter Andrew Fraunces: Son of Samuel Fraunces, owner of the famed Fraunces Tavern. And he suuuuuucks.
 - Chernow describes him as a “disgruntled former Treasury Secretary clerk” so you know where this is going.
 - At first, he seemed like an ideal spy on the inside. He knew all about Hamilton’s duties from 1789 until he was fired in March of 1793. By May of that year, a broke and angry Fraunces was in NYC and ready to start some shit. He sent the Treasury two warrants of redemption.
 - What the hell is a warrant of redemption? Good question! According to Founders.archives.gov, here’s some insight: “Andrew Fraunces initiated a controversy over the payment of two warrants issued by the Board of Treasury in 1787 and 1789. Although Fraunces maintained that he had purchased these warrants in early May, 1793, it cannot be stated with certainty just how he obtained them or whether he ever actually owned them.”
 - The claims were denied and Fraunces wrote both Hamilton and Washington demanding the payment. He not only wrote to them, but he made his way to Philly to really stir the pot.
 - Enter Jacob Clingman! Remember him? Maria Reynolds’ brand new husband! This should be fun.
 - Clingman was still hellbent on what Chernow calls the “preposterous notion that Hamilton had conspired with William Duer to rig the market in government securities, and Fraunces pretended that he had information linking Hamilton directly with Duer’s ill-fated speculations.” (page 428).
 - The rumor mill is now spinning out of control. Clingman, Fraunces, Beckley, and Jefferson were all talking shit like crazy.
 - Clingman told Beckley that Maria Reynolds was ready to spill alllllll the tea about the affair. Chernow says, “as if the loose-tongued Maria had ever muzzled herself before.” (page 429.) BURRRRRNNNNNN.
 - Here’s what a piece of garbage Clingman is: according to John Beckley, “[Clingman] considers Fraunces as a man of no principle, yet he is sure that he is privy to the whole connection with Duer... He tells me, too, that Fraunces is fond to drink and very avaricious and that a judicious appeal to either of those passions would induce him to deliver up Hamilton’s and Duer’s letters and tell all he knows.” (page 429) SERIOUSLY, YOU GUYS?!
 - Jefferson wrote down every little rumor in his diary, Anas, and loved every second of it.
 - TJ wrote notes in the margin like “Impossible as to Hamilton. He was far above that.” (page 429) but still felt the need to document the gossip.
 - Hamilton knew that all these dudes were talking shit, so he invites Jacob Clingman to his office and questioned him like the lawyer he is. Chernow says we know this because of course Clingman told everyone what happened. Ham straight up asked Clingy if he ever met with John Beckley. Clingy said yes... at the home of Frederick Muhlenberg. BA NUH NUH NUH NUH. Ham’s biggest fears were confirmed: they told other souls what they saw. Gulp.
 - Fraunces was trying to get on the Hamilton blackmail train since he knew Reynolds was successful with it, so he threatened to expose the affair if he didn’t get paid for these warrants that probably didn’t even exist.
 - Hamilton replied within hours. HOURS. Ham learned his lesson from Reynolds and wrote: “Do you imagine that any menaces of appeal to the people can induce me to depart from what I conceive to be my public duty! ...I set you and all your accomplices at defiance.” (page 430).

- And in a shocking turn of events! Hamilton... apologized? Say what? The next day he sent a more “toned down” letter explaining that there were “some sinister motives” going on and that’s why the warrants weren’t paid.
 - What really happened is that Washington ALSO received a threatening letter from Fraunces and Washington asked Hamilton to comment on it. Now it’s official business so he has to play it cool... even though he already Ham’d him.
 - He also sent a letter to Fraunces’ lawyer warning him not to use bullshit documents against him
- August 1793: Fraunces publishes all correspondence between him, Hamilton, and Washington. By October, Hamilton published a scathing article about Fraunces in the paper. Fraunces wrote back in a rival paper, but people like Robert Troup and Rufus King came to Hamilton’s defense.
 - It is INSANE that someone like Fraunces is even listened to at all considering he’s so ridiculously NOT credible. And it’s also pretty nuts that Hamilton even gave this idiot the time of day.
- It all ends with Fraunces’ claims being rejected, and Hamilton being praised for handling the situation honorably. Again.