

CHAPTER 13: PUBLIUS

- Even though it was a gory mess, the American Revolution ended up uniting the thirteen states. The Constitutional Convention was another story entirely.
 - Suddenly there was - all together now - a new form of government! (WHAT?!)
 - They were just supposed to re-work the Articles of Confederation! "WTF, Founding Fathers?" - Everyone

People divided into two groups:

- 1) Federalists: people who were down with the new way of things and were into a dominant central government.
 - a) Kinda weird because Federalists usually = people who prefer a loose confederation. But hey, LET'S MAKE THINGS MORE COMPLICATED.
- 2) Anti-federalists: the opposite.
 - Both sides were claiming the other one was THE WORST. Federalists said DISUNION! CIVIL WAR! DEBT! And the antis were all emo about it - we're all going to be oppressed and the rich suck (hello, Madison).
 - And sure, to be fair... everything was a scary mess. A new government... that looked a lot like the one that just caused a freaking Revolution? There was a lot going on.
 - ALSO the Constitution wasn't even ratified yet, so there's that. Uphill battle like whoa.
 - Plus, no one really knew how to handle this. There wasn't etiquette for it.
 - What did they do? They pamphlet fought each other. Like dance fighting... but... wordier.

CATO

- George Clinton got in on the fun and signed his seven essays "Cato."
 - Yes, Cato is used in a lot of Roman mythology.
 - ALSO A SLAVE WHO WORKED WITH HERCULES MULLIGAN. Sadface! Et tu, Hercules?
 - Although - reportedly - Cato was a Black Patriot who served as spy together with Mulligan, and often acted the role of courier, in part through British-held territory, by exploiting his status as a slave, letting him pass on intelligence to the Continental Army without being stopped.

CAN WE GET BACK TO POLITICS? PLEASE! YO.

- These men were high school girls at their worst. Anonymous letters with fake names talking shit. Cato, Inspector, Tom Shit!, Mrs. Columbia - YOU GUYS FOUGHT A WAR. STOP ITTTTTTT.

OCTOBER 1787: Ham gets an idea. An "ambitious writing project" for New Yorkers, by New Yorkers... defending the document of the public.

- He was so distracted by the idea, people later said, "ohhhh that's why he was acting weird that time, The Federalist Papers were in the works."

Legend has it... Ham wrote the first one in a cabin on a sloop on Hudson River as he and Eliza came back to New York from Albany. They adorably disagree if they were traveling up or down river. STOP IT YOU GUYS THEY'RE AMAZING AND COMPLICATED. Like a Revolutionary Eric and Tami Taylor.

Ham was THE GUY when it came to the papes. Yes, the papes. It was his idea, he got everyone involved, he oversaw production and... oh yeah... HAMILTON WROTE THE OTHER FIFTY ONE.

JOHN JAY:

- Pale, melancholy face. Grey eyes. Does Bianca's goth Madison musical have room for one more?
- Super smart and a ton of experience - he helped draft the treaty that would end the war - so he was perfect for this.

WILLIAM DUER: poor fella was invited but he couldn't finish his two papers so they were not included.

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS: The over the top dude with the peg leg? Yeah, he claimed he was too busy. ASK ELIZA ABOUT BEING BUSY! With her zillion kids and seamstressing and general amazingness.

So it ended up being Hamilton, John Jay, and Madison. Hamilton wanted it to be legit - which is why he asked two people who knew the inner workings of the Convention - Morris and Madison. He wanted people to know the real deal of what happened, not whatever Clinton and his goons were yammering about.

Everyone had their area.

- Jay = foreign affairs. Really, not Ham?
- Madison = confederacies and what it's like to form a new government. Again... not Ham?
- Hamilton = THE OTHER FIFTY ONE!!! Sorry. No, Ham took the governmental details: executive branch, judicial branch, and the Senate. Also military and taxation.

The essays first appeared in newspapers and everyone was anonymous AGAIN. But this time it kinda made sense because they didn't to betray the confidentiality of the convention even though 1) that's exactly what they were doing and 2) Hamilton pamphlet-yelled at people for doing that.

Hamilton landed on Publius and that's what they all wrote under. First he wanted to be A Citizen of New York but Chernow says he changed his mind after Madison signed on because he was from Virginia.

- According to Chernow, "Publius Valerius had toppled the last Roman King and set up the foundations of government" - yep, sounds about right

JOHN JAY GOT SICK?

- Rheumatism - joint pain, but it's not just arthritis. It's a disease where the immune system actually attacks the joints. One of the worst things someone who wanted to write could get at the time.

Hamilton expected that he, Madison, Jay, Morris, AND Duer would be able write The Federalist Papers. He was not expecting the bulk of it to be him and Madison. They even wrote they had "SOME AID from Mr. Jay."

in the end they wrote 85 essays

The Federalist Papers total 175,000 words and 600 pages. Printers couldn't handle it.... And it was essentially a two man enterprise. Two quote Mark Ruffalo as Dave Toschi in Zodiac... Jesus Christ.

- I love that they call the essays or papers "numbers" - like an old timey up tempo numbah!

These papers are where the differences between Hamilton and Madison started to show.

As a whole it is called The Federalist and is regarded as both a literary and political masterpiece

Teddy Roosevelt said that when it came to political practices, "it is on the whole the greatest book."

DEADLINES:

- Hamilton and Madison agreed to delivered to two essays a week, at three day intervals.
- They'd appear in four or five NY newspapers so the PRESSURE. WAS. ON.
- They legit wrote like they were running out of time because they ACTUALLY WEEEEEEEEERE. No wonder John Jay came down with a joint ailment. My god. "My god."
- This meant...
 - 1: no time for revisions or any planning at all. Which is good, because Chernow says they were both insanely smart and had it all at the ready
 - 2: they couldn't consult with each other. They usually only saw what the other one wrote when it was published.

But seriously, if we're keeping score, Hamilton really DID write like he was running out of time:

- 21 essays in two months
- Five essays in a week - TWICE
- One time, he did six in a week when talking about taxation

Hamilton was like Mozart - thousands of quills, tons of paper, just a mad scientist.

Can we stop to talk about how these dudes would do today? ESPECIALLY Hamilton? Read receipts on iMessges? 140 characters???? Stop it.

Ham is like Lin. Lin has a million projects happening but not a single one suffers because of another one - granted, I'm speculating. The stamina and brainpower of these two men = astounding.

Ham would write, write, write, and sleep whenever. He'd pace and form sentences in his head.

Yeah, HE WAS RELIABLE WITH THE LAAAAAADIES, but deep down he was an intellectual loner. Everyone like this is. Maybe the job forces you to be social and interact, but it sounds like Alexander was the most comfortable writing and forming ideas.

Hamilton and Madison were so different

- Hamilton seemed worldly and wise, but like a peacock puffing his chest out with the goods to back it up. People thought he was older.
- Madison appeared stern, yet younger and weaker. Hence Oak and his hanky on stage.

ASHLEY TRANSLATION:

- The papers argued for a strong central government. The federal system, basically, which is power to the federal govt that can allow them to supersede the state govts.
- It's essentially the guidebook for checks and balances - states can check the fed and the fed can check a state if either is in violation of the constitution
- ham argued for no bill of rights bc he believed the constitution protected them already
- Madison believed the Bill of Rights was another necessary check on the govt and ham thought it had already been covered