

CHAPTER 16: DR. PANGLOSS What'd I Miss? / Cabinet Battles / The Room Where It Happens (YAAAASSSS!)

YOU SIMPLY MUST MEET THOMAS! THOMAS!

Okay, Jefferson is actually hoooo-oooo-ooooome now and yes, he was the confirmed nominee for Secretary of State before he was even offered the role.

- One change from the show: T.Jeff took his sweet time accepting. He took all winter to decide and finally said yes in mid-February 1790.

Apparently, this indecisiveness was a trend with Jefferson.

- While Hamilton, Madison, and Jay were writing the Federalist Papers, Jefferson went back and forth on his opinions about the Constitution.
- His biggest gripe? The existence of the executive branch aka "The very seat of government where Hamilton siiiiiits." Chernow calls it "his favorite bogeyman." Andddd we immediately know how Chernow feels about Jefferson. Noted.

Hamilton was cool with a lifetime president as long as he (He. Not "they" yet, unfortunately.) stayed in line while Jefferson wanted four years and four years only.

- They clashed from the start, which explains why it took a while for him to say yes to serving in a central government.

OKAY, SO LET'S MEET THE DUDE. WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

The way Chernow physically describes Jefferson is pretty interesting, if only in contrast to LMM's version of T.Jeff:

- 1) Calm, self-confident air. Okay, yeah, Lin and Daveed nailed that.
- 2) "Like Burr, Thomas Jefferson found strength in secrecy, in silence."
 - a) When they were first in the cabinet together, Jefferson would have private talks with Hamilton and then use what he said against him in public (page 320).
 - b) He'd say what he knew people wanted to hear, instead of saying anything and everything on his mind ala Hamilton. He'd keep quiet while encouraging other people to speak.
 - i) Chernow says this meant Hamilton was eventually "at the mercy of the tightly controlled Jefferson" (page 320).
- 3) He was quiet and aloof, yet would charm people at dinner and could be very engaging (as long as you were like-minded)
 - a) Chernow describes a lot of people this way; the balance of being quiet and aloof yet knowing who to charm and how/when to charm them. Those saucy Founding Fathers!
- 4) Jefferson was tall, lean, freckled, had red hair and hazel eyes.
- 5) He had "slack-jointed movements" and dressed casually (for the time, at least). He would slouch and often look "undignified" and "sloppy." Daveed's pimp walk, the bounciness, etc.
 - a) "He sits in a lounging manner, on one hip commonly, and with one of his shoulders elevated much above the other... his whole figure has a loose, shackling air." - Page 311
 - i) Chernow says this was a way for him to be folksy and charm people and then get in their heads and learn all of their secrets. But Ham was the secret double agent?!
- 6) Jefferson was twelve years older than Hamilton
- 7) And finally, Chernow gives us a hell of an image with this sentence: "The plain dress, mild manners, and unassuming air were the perfect costume for a crafty man intent upon presenting himself as the spokesman for the common people."

Yeah, about that... Jefferson was not a common person at all. If he was in "Game of Thrones" they'd call him Highborn.

- 1) His father Peter was a tobacco planter, a judge of the court of the chancery, and a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses.
 - a) Chernow just says his mother came from a "prominent family." No wonder he's so annoyed with Ham smelling like new money. Pshhh.
- 2) When Papa Jefferson died, he left the following to his children: over 60 slaves, 25 horses, 70 head of cattle, 200 hogs, and 7,500 acres of land.
 - a) Thomas got $\frac{2}{3}$ of all of that. DAYUM.
- 3) Jefferson had a great education. By five, he was being tutored at home, and by nine he was off to boarding school where he studied Greek and Latin. He went to the College of William and Mary.
- 4) Like Hamilton, dude was obsessed with self-improvement. He'd wake up super early, and work/study all day long - sometimes up to 15 hours a day.
 - a) "It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing." - T. Jefferson (page 312)
 - b) He was just one of those people who was good at everything, even though he might've worked really hard at it; studying, working, horseback riding, playing the violin, designing buildings (yep), or inventing things.

A CIVICS LESSON FROM A SLAVER!

- 1) Yep. This wonderful life he lived was all thanks to the hundreds of slaves owned by his family.
 - a) Chernow says his "oldest memory was of being carried on a pillow by a slave on horseback." (page 312)
 - b) Even though he claimed to hate slavery and he called it deplorable, he seemed to be totally oblivious to what a hypocrite he was being.
 - i) Example: When he had his house built at the top of a mountain in Monticello, he didn't realize the slaves would be dragging everything to the top of the mountain to build the damn thing. UGH.
 - 2) He married a young widow named Martha Wayles Skelton when he was 28 years old and inherited 135 more slaves through that marriage.
 - a) Only two of their six children survived long enough to grow up
 - b) Martha died after 10 years of marriage, and Jefferson (39 years old at the time of her death) never re-married even though he lived for forty more years.
 - c) He became a loner, cooped up in Monticello with his books, inventions, and experiments.
- Chernow notes that Jefferson was a lot like Hamilton in the sense that he rose up the political ladder through his way with words; "sunny, optimistic words that captured the hopefulness of a new country." (page 312)
 - Jefferson took "commonplace ideas and endowed them with majestic form."
 - He was all about "ideals" which is a word LMM gives Jefferson in both Cabinet Battles.
 - Cabinet Battle #1: "We fought for these ideals; we shouldn't settle for less."
 - Cabinet Battle #2: "Everything he does betrays the ideals of our nation."
 - Fun fact: Chernow says even though Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration of Independence, he stayed anonymous until it would benefit him politically in the 1790s

WHAT'D I MISS?

Here's what Jefferson was up to while the American Revolution was going down:

- 1) He definitely did NOT fight in it.
 - a) He was elected governor of Virginia in 1779, but he hated it and wanted to quit

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- b) When Benedict Arnold came and burned down Richmond in 1781, Jefferson had peaced out - even though Washington warned him what was coming!
 - i) And when he heard the British were headed toward Monticello, he ran into the woods on horseback and didn't want to deal with it. Come on, guy!!!
 - (1) He was accused of dereliction of duty and neglecting the transfer of power to his successor. He was exonerated by the Virginia Assembly.
- 2) His hatred for the British was growing
 - a) Not just on a personal level (and, ya know, the whole "wanting-independence-from-them" thing), but Jefferson constantly owed British creditors money. He was land rich and cash poor.
 - i) Apparently this is why he kept his slaves, because he couldn't keep up with the payments. UMMMMMM whose fault was that T.Jeff?!
 - ii) He even had debt up until he died in 1826.

HE'S BEEN KICKIN' ASS AS THE AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

- 1) He took over Ben Franklin's gig as US minister.
 - a) This made him realize - even more - that he hated the monarchy (like his counterpart Lafayette!), and he became super suspicious of anything that had to do with aristocratic or monarchical sympathies.
 - i) Which, of course, made Hamilton a target for him.
- 2) Jefferson was a legit Francophile. He wrote to Madison, "Nothing should be spared on our part to attach this country to us." (page 314)
 - a) He hated the politics, but loved everything else: the food, wine, women, music, all of it.
 - i) "Jefferson fancied himself a mere child of nature, a simple, unaffected man, rather than what he really was: a grandee, a gourmet, a hedonist, and a clever, ambitious politician." (page 314)
 - (1) Srsly. Chernow says he had a big household staff, including a guy whose only job was to buff the floors so they were shiny enough for T.Jeff.
 - (2) He had 2,000 books and 63 paintings.
 - (a) Uhhh, what about your debt, dude?!
- 3) While in Paris, his two daughters came over to hang. One of them, Polly, came with a slave named Sally Hemings...

- OKAY. Here's what we know about Sally Hemings so far:
 - She was 14-years-old (Stahhhhhp. I know 14 was older back then - just look at Hamilton at 14 - but STILL. Stop.)
 - She was called "Dashing Sally" - she was light skinned, very pretty, and had "long straight hair down her back."
 - Sally was one of the slaves Jefferson inherited from his wife Martha and Chernow says it is now presumed Sally was Martha's half sister
 - We know that Jefferson had a sexual relationship with Sally but Chernow can't confirm if that started while he was in Paris or after he got home... or how consensual it was. Sadface x a million.
- Jefferson was legit meetin' lots of different ladies... and he liked 'em younger.
 - Maria (pronounced Mariah YES LIKE REYNOLDS) Cosway: a cute, blonde, British artist who was born in Italy. She was 26 when she dated a 43-year-old Jefferson. OH AND SHE WAS MARRIED. Her husband, a painter, was never around. (Maybe he was always trying to find himself HEYOOOOOOOOO musical theatre humor! Cell Block Tango, anyone?)
 - Maria introduced Jefferson to... wait for it (wait for it)... ANGELICA!
 - Angelica acted as the middle person to set up meetings between Thomas and Maria, hinting that she was really open minded when it came to relationships.

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- And once again, everyone was in love with her. Maria even wrote to Jefferson, “If I did not love her so much, I should fear for her rivalry, but, no, I give you free permission to love her with all of your heart.” (page 315.)
- Angelica and Jefferson exchanged very flirty/lovey letters (even though she was married with four kids), and they became very close but nothing ever came of their flirtation.
 - Angelica gave him her copy of The Federalist Papers with the inscription, “For Mrs. Church from her Sister, Elizabeth Hamilton.” YOU GUYS IT’S LIKE A SOAP OPERA UP IN HERE.
- Chernow says she was forced to choose between Ham and Jeff, and Angelica went with Ham.
- So you know how Hamilton’s insults in Cabinet Battle #1 are all super personal? It’s probably because the gossip about him when he was in France was... let’s just say it was not a good look for T.Jeff. At all.
 - We might have Angelica to thank, because Chernow suggests she spilled the beans about his flirtations and speculated about Sally Hemings.
 - Sally’s son Madison later wrote that while in Paris, Sally was Jefferson’s “concubine” and claims “when he was called home, she was enceinte by him.” (en·ceinte - en¹ sānt, än¹ sant. Noun.: an enclosure or the enclosing wall of a fortified place.□□□). SAD. FACE.
 - Hamilton absolutely has reason for shame but there’s a major difference: Hamilton wrote the freaking Reynolds Pamphlet about it and Chernow says it took over 200 years of “sedulous detective work to provide partial corroboration of the story of [Jefferson’s] sexual liaison with Sally Hemings.”

CAN WE GET BACK TO POLITICS?! PLEASE! YO.

That whole “France-is-following-us-to-Revolution” thing was a little misguided on T.Jeff’s part. He was bright eyed and bushy tailed about the whole thing but he was 100% wrong to be so optimistic; it was violent and terrible and he seemed to not really get how awful it was going to be.

- You know who did? A.Ham. Chernow says Ham had never even been to Europe but he know more about the political climate than T.Jeff.
- Remember when Jefferson helped Lafayette draft a declaration? It’s called the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen and it was presented to the National Assembly on July 11th, 1789.

On page 317, Chernow says that Hamilton wrote a letter to “his old friend Lafayette, who had been appointed head of the national guard.” This made me smile so much that I actually drew a smiley face in the margin. Hi, Lafayette!

- The letter was about how Hamilton was happy France was following us to Revolution but he was worried about how it would all turn out. Aw. Fam.

Hamilton already wasn’t a fan of Jeff’s; he had all of this gossip from Angelica (and others) and now he thought he was totally ignorant of the ways of the world. “Philosopher, my butt!” - A.Ham, in his way.

Thomas Jefferson’s coming hoooo-oooo-ooooome with a TON of stuff: 86 crates filled with expensive French furniture, porcelain, silver, books, paintings, etc. Not to mention 288 bottles of French wine, and James Hemings (Sally’s brother) who studied Parisian cuisine so he could still have all the French food he fell in love with.

- Cue Jimmy Dugan: “LET’S NOT GO TO THE WORLD SERIES WITHOUT STILLWELL’S TOYS!”
- Fun fact: When Jefferson came to NYC, he lived at 57 Maiden Lane. After I graduated from Fordham I lived on Gold Street. I just Google mapped it and I lived LITERALLY two minutes away from that building. .01 miles!

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Anyway, the minute he got home Jefferson decided that America was totally corrupted by British influences and the Revolution was in danger.

HAMILTON VS. JEFFERSON: FIGHT!

...Well wait, not so fast.

- Hamilton and Jefferson met in NYC for the first time, but things were pretty friendly at first. Sigh, aren't they always, Ham?
 - Chernow says Hamilton probably heard good things about him from Madison and Angelica (aside from the gossip)
 - This is also a little weird because Chernow *just* said that Hamilton was not the biggest fan of Jefferson's, so there's some more jumping around with the timeline here.
- Jefferson called The Federalist Papers "the best commentary on the principles of government which was ever written."
 - On the other hand, T.Jeff always thought that Hamilton was always too pro-British and used that power to do Britishy things. Join the club, Thomas.

SEE HOW HE LIES?

- 1) Jefferson agreed with Madison about Hamilton's plan: he wanted the original holders of the bonds to get the cash.
 - a) They both wanted a small government. "Wasn't the problem with much of our previous government siiiize?"
- 2) Thomas was threatened by the idea that Hamilton was getting a lot of people - ahem - on his side, and this made him a little paranoid.
 - a) He thought Hamilton had super powerful people at the beck and call of the Treasury.
 - b) He was convinced that congressmen were in on whatever scheme he had in his head and thought they were investing in government securities.
 - c) He also took Hamilton's quote about debt being a blessing out of context (see Chapter 14 notes), and his paranoia ran with that, too.

MADISON, YOU MAD AS A HATTER, SON, TAKE YA MEDICINE

- Real quick: Madison and Hamilton bonded over having the same ideas and opinions, so there was nothing there to keep the relationship together when that fell apart. Madison and Jefferson, on the other hand, were BFFs and that sucked for Hamilton
 - Hamilton later said that he never would have taken the Treasury gig if he knew he wouldn't have Madison as support. SADFACE.
 - Lin says in the Hamiltome that he's sad he didn't get to include this.

1) James Madison, in a nutshell:

- a) Pale, unsmiling, detached
- b) His nickname was "Little Jemmy" because he was only 5'4".
- c) He never acted until he was absolutely forced to and by that point, he probably missed out on doing the right thing.
- d) He was perceived as timid and most people assumed Jefferson (who was eight years older) was pulling all the strings
 - i) NOT TRUE. Madison ditched Hamilton before T.Jeff was on the scene.

(1) Not to mention he had a much better grasp on the issues. He made his own decision.

(a) Maybe Madison's demeanor in Hamilton is meant to mimic this perception?

Jefferson is running the show here and Madison chimes in and punctuates things

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from time to time. I could be looking into this but this is Lin-Manuel Miranda we're talking about. Dude loves his layers. He's the Onion Knight over here.

- e) He was so good at cutting deals that his other nickname was "The Big Knife." Has a person ever had two more conflicting nicknames?
 - i) People also called him The General and Jefferson was The Generalissimo.

WASHINGTON ON HIS SIDE? NOT. YET.

- 1) Chernow perfectly sums up what Ham's plan was *really* about on page 323. Hamilton believed "the debt had been granted by the Revolution, that all Americans had benefited equally from that revolution, and that they should assume collective responsibility for its debt. If state debts were unequal, so were the sacrifices made during the fighting." HOW CAN YOU ARGUE WITH THAT??
 - a) Hey guess what, Washington didn't argue with that. He supported assumption but he didn't want to get in the middle of it for fear of being accused of partisanship.
 - i) He was also too sick to physically do anything about it. He came down with pneumonia and was too weak to write anything down from May 10th-June 24th 1790.
 - (1) Two out of the three doctors who checked him out said he was on the verge of death. Again! But he fought back. Again!!!
 - ii) MEANWHILE, Hamilton stepped in and basically acted as President. Remember that scene in The West Wing when Toby freaks out about Leo running the Situation Room?? "I'll bet all the money in my pockets against all the money in your pockets, that it was Leo, WHO NO ONE ELECTED! For ninety minutes that night there was a coup d'etat in this country!" So good.
 - iii) Also, Ham. Listen, pal... you're trying to get the country united and all you're doing is dividing it even more. Cool it.

WILLIAM MACLAY or, OH MY GOD TEAR THIS DUDE APART

- 1) He was a journalist who had it out for Hamilton. Yes, he was a dick to everyone (he called John Adams "a monkey just put into breeches" page 324) but he REALLY had it out for Hamilton.
 - a) He called Hamilton "his Holiness" and a "damnable villain" and seemed to be everywhere and know everything.

THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS OH MY GOD YOU GUYS IT'S HERE THIS IS IT!

DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET MY PLAN ON THE CONGRESS FLOOR

- 1) On April 12th, 1790, the House said a big HELL NO to Hamilton's assumption plan with a 31-29 vote. Two weeks later they decided to stop talking about it, and by June it looked dead in the water. Hm m m m m looks like Hammy needs to strike up a compromise....
 - a) Oh I know how about we talk about the location of the capital?!?! Lezgo.
- 2) Deciding on the capital location was a GIGANTIC DEAL.
 - a) Having the capital = massive wealth, power, and population. AND! It would have an affect on the style of federal government, because it would soak up the vibe of its surroundings.
- 3) Because things weren't already complicated, there was discussion of a temporary capital before which would be a "makeshift government" while the real capital was getting situated.
 - a) At this point, people assumed the temporary capital would be in either New York or Philly and Hamilton, of course, wanted it in NYC (because duh).

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- i) Hamilton wanted his friend John Laurence (not John Laurens) to be win his Congress bid in NYC.
 - ii) Hamilton Deal #1:
 - (1) William Livingston, now governor of New Jersey, was leaning towards Philadelphia. Hamilton said that if Livingston supported NYC as the temporary capital, Ham would vote for Trenton, NJ as the long-term.
 - iii) NYC was becoming a controversial option because it was too associated with Hamilton. His haters actually started calling it HAMILTONOPOLIS. That is not a joke. It's on page 325 if you don't believe me.
 - (1) For the southerners, NYC was too much like London and they thought the bankers and merchants "would contaminate the republican experiment."
- 4) Jefferson, Madison, and Washington all wanted the capital to be on the Potomac near Mount Vernon.
- a) Jefferson was into it because it was far enough away from the big, bad city (not to mention a little closer to home).
 - b) Madison was into it because he and Henry Lee speculated in land on the Potomac, and Madison wanted to get some of that cash money. SRSLY, DUDE???
- 5) There were a lot of things to consider here:
- a) Should the capital be where the people are? Like Ariel? Or would it be better to have it right smack in the middle of everything geographically?
 - i) NYC wasn't even close to being in the middle and would be a hassle for southerners to travel
 - ii) Some people wanted to keep the country moving westward, and having a capital in the Northeast is for real in the opposite direction.
- 6) By spring of 1790 things were so awful and toxic that it started to look like the union would fall apart over this.
- a) The South was treating Hamilton like a full on Brit and they hated him so hard.
 - b) Henry Lee wrote to Madison saying that it felt like the Revolution all over again.
 - c) Jefferson wrote that Congress would fight all day long and not a single thing would get done. (Ugh. The more things change, the more they stay the same, AMIRITE?)
- Hamilton had to make a choice: fight for the assumption plan or NYC as capital... he chose the assumption plan which is great because it gave us The Room Where it Happens. And lots of other things, but mostly The Room Where it Happens.
 - Before we get to it... ONE MORE THING: Hamilton was getting desperate to strike a deal, so he sent some people to see what was up with Pennsylvania Senator Robert Morris who was all about Philly being the capital. Morris wouldn't talk to them, but sent a letter to Hamilton saying that he'd be talking a leisurely stroll on the Battery and if he should run into Alexander Hamilton then maybe they could talk about a proposal of some kind. Real sly, Bobby. Hamilton showed up - super early, of course - and proposed a deal:
 - Hamilton Deal #2: if Morris got 1 Senate and 5 House votes in favor of assumption, Hamilton would support Germantown or Trenton as the permanent capital.
 - It didn't go through because Pennsylvania and Virginia had a deal of their own, but this let everyone know that Hamilton was the main guy trying to strategize where the capital was going to.

THOMAS CLAIMS! ...basically everything Lin wrote in The Room Where It Happens.

- 1) According to Jefferson, Hamilton really was on Washington's doorstep in distress and disarray. He made a point to mention how ragged he [ALLEGEDLY] looked because that was so out of character for Hammy Ham. Jeff says the dude was a wreck and yup, basically begged him to join the fray.

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- a) What we know for sure is that Hamilton knew they'd call for his removal if he didn't get his plan through congress. Figure it out, Alexander.
- 2) Chernow says Jefferson played it up like he had NO IDEA how politics or financial systems worked but that was all an act. In reality, he followed the debate very closely and knew exactly what was up.

DECISIONS ARE HAPPENING OVER DINNER

- 1) The date? June 20th, 1790. The place? Jefferson's pad on Maiden Lane. The room? WHERE IT HAPPENED.
 - a) Chernow calls it "perhaps the most celebrated meal in American history." (page 328)
 - b) Hamilton, Madison, and Jefferson were there for sure (duh) but apparently there might've been "one or two others."
 - i) You know who certainly WASN'T there? Aaron Burr.
 - (1) This adds a whole new layer of awesome to "The Room Where It Happens." It's a Burr song, it's a showstopper, and we haven't heard about him in Chernow in several chapters. Burr is very interactive with the audience on stage. It's just the BEST.
- 2) Chernow says Jefferson had a month long migraine but treated everyone with civility. If you've ever had a migraine for more than 5 minutes you know how awful it must've been to have one for a MONTH.
- 3) They agreed that Philadelphia would be the temporary capital for ten years and then it would move to a permanent site on the Potomac.
- 4) Chernow says Hamilton missed his chance to make NYC the next London or Paris, and making it the political, financial, and cultural capital of the country.
 - a) Kinda like when he opted NOT to be New York City real estate on the cheap when he had the chance.
 - b) New Yorkers were not thrilled about this, but it proved that Hamilton's assumption plan meant actually everything to him. (WHATdidtheysaytoyououtogetyoutosellNewYorkCitydowntheRIVVAAAHHHH?!)
- 5) There was a SECOND dinner!
 - a) June 28th: Hamilton, Jefferson, and Secretary of War Henry Knox had a sit down with delegates from the Pennsylvania Congress. Not really worthy of a showstopping number to bring the house down, they were basically locking down what they already agreed to.
- 6) July 10th: the House approved The Residence Act, making Philly the temporary capital and mapped out a 10-mile-square site on the Potomac for the permanent.
- 7) And we're back to William Maclay the gossip hound:
 - a) He wrote that Hamilton had a "very boyish, giddy manner and Scotch-Irish people would call him a 'skite.' A skite is a "vain, frivolous, or wanton girl." (page 329)
 - i) Because HOW DARE HE be excited about the thing he cared about the most in the world at the time actually working out in his favor.
 - b) Maclay also claimed that Hamilton was now all powerful and everyone was in his pocket, etc. Yawn.
- 8) The House passed the assumption bill but juuuuuuuust barely.
 - a) Madison did provide Hamilton the votes, but he STILL voted against assumption.
 - i) He gave Ham votes from four congressman from Virginia and Maryland.

THE ART OF THE COMPROMISE...?

- Chernow says that this was a "splendid" moment for Hamilton, Madison, and Jefferson. And seriously, think about what they did and how they did it. It's all pretty amazing.
 - BUT! Since no one else was in the room where it happened, the people at the time didn't really think it was all that awe-inspiring. For many peeps, it was still a backdoor deal and that meant it had to be shady and they were not afraid to voice their opinion about that.

- Jefferson later told Washington that Hamilton tricked him into agreeing to everything. He claimed he was “made a tool for forwarding his schemes, not then sufficiently understood by me, and of all the errors of my political life this has occasioned me the deepest regret.” (page 330.) PUH-LEASE, T.JEFF!!!
 - Jefferson cites the assumption plan as the thing that created the two party system
 - Republicans: pure and virtuous
 - Federalists: Hamilton and everything else that is evil and the worst
 - Wait, back up. Why on EARTH would Jefferson backtrack like this?!
 - Chernow says that while he absolutely understood the plan better than he claimed, Jefferson probably didn’t realize just how much it would solidify the foundation of a federal government. All Hamilton did was explain the who/what/where/when/why of the plan, so that didn’t have anything to do with it. Jefferson wasn’t thinking ahead or seeing the big picture the way Hamilton was. Like Burr says, it didn’t really matter where they put the national capital ‘cause Ham will have the banks, they’re in the same spot. The bottom line is that Jefferson was outsmarted by Hamilton.
 - Hamilton made things worse when he (anonymously) published a newspaper article that September entitled “Address to the Public Creditors.”
 - “Whoever considers the nature of our government with discernment will see that though obstacles and delays will frequently stand in the way of the adoption of good measures, yet when once adopted, they are likely to be stable and permanent. It will be far more difficult to undo than to do.” (page 331) Sound familiar? “I’ll give him this: his financial system is a work of genius. I couldn’t undo it if I tried...And... I tried.”
- The dinner was the last time Hamilton, Jefferson, and Madison ever worked together with any kind of civility. Chernow says from there on out “they found themselves in increasingly open warfare.”

REWIIND WIND WIND, REWIIND WIND WIND... WHO IN THE EFF IS DR. PANGLOSS?

Dr. Pangloss is a character in Voltaire’s *Candide*. He is described as a supreme optimist and believes that this is “the best of all possible worlds” no matter what the circumstances. Dr. Pangloss was also a really big hypocrite who made himself out to be a scholar but he was apparently depraved and sex-obsessed. Google tells me he had syphilis. Lastly, Pangloss made himself out to be this noble philosopher and that really wasn’t the case.

Okay. Jefferson....

- 1) Was blindly optimistic about the French Revolution even though things were an awful, bloody mess (actually awful and bloody)
- 2) Liked the ladies, he liked them young, and we don’t really know the true nature of his relationship with a 14-year-old slave who may or may not have been his half sister-in-law...
- 3) Was totally oblivious and hypocritical to the slavery issue in general
- 4) Was a HamilHater but never really looked inward to deal with his own failures and issues.

So there you have it. Damn, Chernow is smart dude.

End note:

- I don’t give a hoot if there are changes/streamlines/historical inaccuracies/whatever in the show. It is Lin’s view and it’s great and it’s essentially historical fanfiction and I will not pay any attention to the history hipsters who want to be bummers.

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