

★ CHAPTER 7 ★

MR. JEFFERSON THROWS A PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED TO BE THE FIRST PRESIDENT UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

CONGRESS IMMEDIATELY DEBATED FOR THREE WEEKS WHETHER TO ADDRESS HIM AS "MR. PRESIDENT" OR "YOUR MAJESTY."

THIS SPLIT— BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANTED THEIR GOVERNMENT PLAIN VS. THOSE WHO WANTED IT POMPUS— QUICKLY SPILLED OVER INTO OTHER AREAS.





THE NEXT FIGHT STARTED WITH A PROVOCATIVE PROPOSAL FROM TREASURY SECRETARY ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

LET'S GIVE THE COUNTRY TO THE RICH!



DURING THE REVOLUTION, SAID HAMILTON, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS HAD BORROWED HEAVILY — AND NEVER REPAID THEIR DEBTS. NOW, VAST QUANTITIES OF STATE-ISSUED I.O.U.'S WERE FLOATING AROUND ... BOUGHT, SOLD, AND COLLECTED, SOMETHING LIKE BASEBALL CARDS.*

I'LL GIVE YOU TWO MARYLANDS FOR A STAN MUSIAL...



HAMILTON'S PLAN WAS FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REPAY EVERY I.O.U. AT FACE VALUE — A HUGE WINDFALL FOR THE HOLDERS.

GOOD IDEA, ALEX!

* EXCEPT THAT BASEBALL CARDS SOMETIMES RISE IN VALUE.

SECRETARY OF STATE THOMAS JEFFERSON ACCUSED HAMILTON OF SCHEMING TO MORTGAGE THE NATION TO THE EASTERN MONEY ESTABLISHMENT AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE.

HAMILTON RETORTED THAT A NATIONAL DEBT WAS GOOD THING BECAUSE THE RICH HOPING TO BE REPAID, WOULD SUPPORT STRONG GOVERNMENT.

JEFFERSON TRYING TO RUN HAMILTON'S PLAN AS A SCHEME TO ENRICH HIMSELF. MONARCHY...

SECRETARY OF STATE THOMAS JEFFERSON ACCUSED HAMILTON OF SCHEMING TO MORTGAGE THE NATION TO THE EASTERN MONEY ESTABLISHMENT, AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE.



"THE MORE DEBT HAMILTON COULD RAKE UP, THE MORE PLUNDER FOR HIS MERCENARIES. THIS MONEY, WHETHER WISELY OR FOOLISHLY SPENT, WAS PRETENDED TO HAVE BEEN SPENT FOR GENERAL PURPOSES, AND OUGHT, THEREFORE, TO BE PAID FROM THE GENERAL PURSE."

HAMILTON RETORTED THAT A BIG NATIONAL DEBT WAS A GOOD THING, BECAUSE THE RICH, HOPING TO BE REPAID, WILL SUPPORT STRONG GOVERNMENT.



JEFFERSON REPLIED THAT A BIG DEBT CAUSES THE GOVERNMENT TO FAVOR THE RICH, WHO LOAN IT MONEY, AND TO CRUSH THE POOR, WHO HAVE TO PAY IT OFF.



JEFFERSON SMERED THAT HAMILTON WAS TRYING TO BUY POLITICAL SUPPORT... HAMILTON SNARLED THAT HE SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT... ENGLAND HAD BEEN RUNNING THAT WAY FOR GENERATIONS...

MONARCHIST!



FOOL! REDHEAD!

THIS FIGHT ENDED WITH A STRANGE COMPROMISE: JEFFERSON DROPPED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE TREASURY PLAN, WHILE HAMILTON BACKED JEFFERSON'S PET PROJECT, A NATIONAL CAPITAL IN THE SOUTH! AND THAT'S WHY WASHINGTON, D.C. WAS BUILT ON THE BANKS OF THE POTOMAC!

COURTESY OF THE BANKS OF N.Y.



AH... BUT THERE WAS STILL THE MATTER OF THE

FRENCH REVOLUTION!

INSPIRED BY THE AMERICANS, THE FRENCH PEOPLE HAD RISEN UP AND GIVEN THEIR KING AN OPERATION WHICH MADE IT NECESSARY TO DECLARE A REPUBLIC.



JEFFERSON, WHO FELT LIKE ITS AMERICAN GODFATHER, WAS ALL FOR THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. HAMILTON, WHO MORE ADMIRING ENGLAND, WHERE PATRIOTISM AND PECUNIARY SELF-INTEREST WERE BLENDED TO THE POINT THAT NO ONE COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE*, WAS SUSPICIOUS OF ANYTHING BASED PURELY ON PRINCIPLES.



*ONLY AT THAT TIME, NO DOUBT

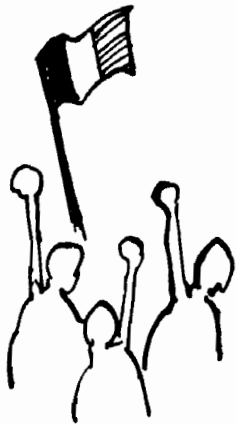


LIBE
EQ
FRAT

GRAD



HAMILTON ATTACKED JEFFERSON IN THE PRESS... JEFFERSON SECRETLY STARTED HIS OWN NEWSPAPER TO SAVAGE HAMILTON AND CELEBRATE HIMSELF...



LIBERTY!
EQUALITY!
FRATERNITY!

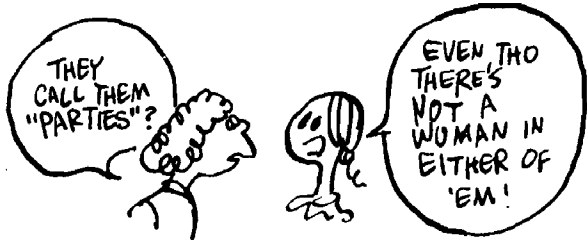
THE COMMON PEOPLE, WITH JEFFERSON, HAILED REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE.

THE COMMERCIAL CLASSES, WITH HAMILTON, PREFERRED ENGLAND, THEIR MAIN SOURCE OF BUSINESS.



GRADUALLY, THE COUNTRY DIVIDED INTO TWO CAMPS...





HAMILTON'S PARTY, THE **FEDERALISTS**, FAVORED A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THE INTERESTS OF NORTHERN BANKERS AND MANUFACTURERS, ENGLAND OVER FRANCE, AND GOVERNMENT BY THE "BETTER SORT" (READ: BANKERS AND MANUFACTURERS).



ONE FEDERALIST PROPOSED A VOTING AGE OF 50!

JEFFERSON'S PARTY, THE **REPUBLICANS**, FAVORED A MINIMAL GOVERNMENT, THE INTERESTS OF FARMERS AND BORROWERS, THE SOUTH, FRANCE OVER ENGLAND, AND WIDER POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT.



BOTH PARTIES FAVORED THEIR OWN ELECTION AND THE OTHER'S REMOVAL!



AFTER TO STAN THE F WASHI FINALL HIMSE FEDER THE P BEGAN HIM "VILL "ENEA REVO INSTE "MR.

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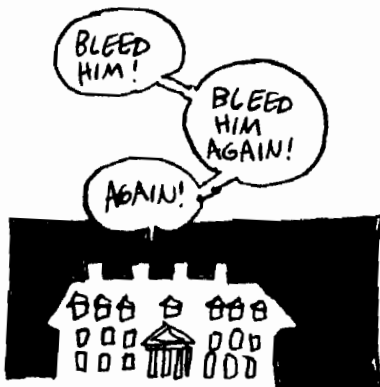


AFTER TRYING TO STAY ABOVE THE FRAY, WASHINGTON FINALLY DECLARED HIMSELF A FEDERALIST. THE REPUBLICANS BEGAN CALLING HIM "TRAITOR," "VILLAIN," AND "ENEMY OF THE REVOLUTION," INSTEAD OF "MR. PRESIDENT."

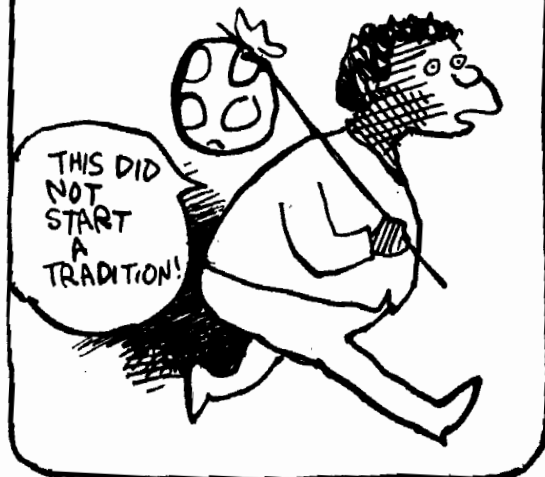


IN 1796, WASHINGTON STARTED AN AMERICAN TRADITION BY ANNOUNCING THAT EIGHT YEARS AS PRESIDENT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ANYONE. HE DECLINED TO RUN FOR A THIRD TERM, GIVING A FAREWELL ADDRESS BUT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS.

HE RETIRED TO HIS PLANTATION AND SUCCUMBED TO AN EXCESS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT.



IN WASHINGTON'S LAST WILL & TESTAMENT, HE FREED ALL HIS SLAVES.



FOR STARTERS, HE PEACEFULLY DOUBLED THE NATION'S TERRITORY WITH THE

LOUISIANA PURCHASE.

THE STORY ACTUALLY BEGINS WITH ANOTHER REVOLUTION, THIS ONE IN **HAITI**, WHERE THE SLAVES THREW OFF, OR CUT OFF, THEIR FRENCH MASTERS.

THE FRENCH SET US SUCH A GOOD EXAMPLE!



(IN THE U.S.A., SOUTHERNERS CRINGED IN FEAR, AND TRIED TO KEEP THE NEWS FROM THEIR OWN SLAVES.)

MIGHTY QUIET... MUST BE AN UPRISING SOMEWHERE...



ANYWAY, FRANCE THREW HEAPS OF MEN, FRANCS, AND BEANS INTO HAITI. THE HAITIANS MADE HAMBURGER OUT OF THEM...



HM... NOW MY WALLET'S EMPTY...



NAPOLEON, WHO WAS NOW DICTATOR OF FRANCE, DECIDED TO CASH IN HIS AMERICAN REAL ESTATE. (HE EXPECTED TO MAKE IT UP BY CONQUERING RUSSIA, WHICH HAD LOTS OF OCEANFRONT, OR AT LEAST PLENTY OF SERFS.)

NAPOLEON OFFERED TO "LOUISIANA" WHICH ALSO INCLUDED ARKANSAS, KANSAS, IOWA, THE DAKOTAS AND POINT WEST. AT \$15 M THIS WAS A DEAL OF THE MU

THE PRESIDENT FLIPPED TO CONSTITUTE A REAL E

C'MON! C'MON!



AND SO CLOSED DEAL... FEDERAL POLITIC HOW U OF HIM ANYTH SO... P



THE CARTOON HISTORY
OF THE
UNITED STATES

Larry Gonick

Author of *The Cartoon History of the Universe*