

# ENQUIRY

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Free thought and discourse

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- ① \$10 Dollar Bill
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## A Review of Summer Events

### EDITORIAL REPORT



#### \$10 Dollar Bill

The Obama administration announced in June its plan to redesign the \$10 bill, removing Alexander Hamilton in order to feature a historically significant woman, identity still to be determined. Of all of the faces on American currency, Alexander Hamilton should be the one the Obama administration most favors. The classic American dream story, Alexander Hamilton was an orphaned immigrant who climbed from the depths of poverty to the top of the political ladder. As the first Secretary of the Treasury under President George Washington, Hamilton is almost single-handedly responsible for the creation of the American monetary system. His place on the \$10 bill is to honor his spectacular influence and contributions to the country. The Obama administration's decision to remove Hamilton from the \$10 bill demonstrates either a spectacular ignorance of history or a subordination of history to political correctness.

#### Halbig v. Burwell

In one of the major decisions of the summer, the Supreme Court upheld another crucial element of the Affordable Care Act. The law originally allowed the federal government to provide subsidies to states who set up their own exchanges for people to buy insurance. The problem: 34 of the states declined to set up exchanges. Obviously the federal government could not force the states to do so, and so the subsidies were clearly meant as an incentive. No exchanges, no subsidies. President Obama's administration went ahead and

provided the subsidies anyway, in violation of his own law. The Supreme Court majority crafted what Scalia called a "bit of interpretive jiggery-pokery" and chose to essentially rewrite the law in a way that's more convenient for the Obama administration. The subsidies remain, and the separation of powers crumbles.

#### Obergefell v. Hodges

In the summer's other landmark decision, the Supreme Court ruled that states are required to provide marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The majority opinion relied on an expansive interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment. Many have mixed feelings about the decision. One can feel great happiness for same-sex couples and still have reservations about the Court's interpretive method. Nowhere in the Constitution's list of the federal government's enumerated powers does marriage come up—it's an issue for the states to decide. Chief Justice Roberts wrote in the dissenting opinion, "Many people will rejoice at this decision, and I begrudge none their celebration. . . . Celebrate the achievement of a desired goal. Celebrate the opportunity for a new expression of commitment to a partner. Celebrate the availability of new benefits. But do not celebrate the Constitution. It had nothing to do with it." *Obergefell v. Hodges* joins *Halbig v. Burwell* as another major blow to the system of checks and balances established in the Constitution.

#### Trade Promotion Authority

The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA) passed with the support of President Obama and Republicans in Congress. The

## This Week's News in 140 Characters

### EDITORIAL REPORT



**Wall Street Journal @WSJ** · Aug 27  
New Quinnipiac poll shows 51% of voters have an unfavorable impression of Hillary Clinton, her worst score to date.

145 120



**Ben Dreyfuss @bendreyfuss** · Aug 25  
I don't think Trump will be the nominee but it would fun watching his conservative critics talk themselves into voting for him over Hilary

4 13



**Andrew Stiles @AndrewStilesUSA** · Aug 24  
Aren't Democrats worried that being old and white is going to hurt Biden's chances in the Democratic field?

18 17



**Allahpundit @allahpundit** · Aug 28  
If this FBI/server news gets any worse, Hillary's gonna go full Godwin in her GOP attacks. "Hillary 2016: A criminal, but not Hitler."

16 11



**Will Antonin @Will\_Antonin** · Aug 27  
I'm still waiting for our "national conversation" about late-term abortion.

16 20

bill almost failed at the hands of anti-free trade congressmen in President Obama's own party. Some Republicans expressed fears that the TPA represents an unwarranted expansion of executive power, but it does no such thing. The TPA simply obligates Congress to vote on trade agreements through an up-or-down vote, without amendments, in a timely fashion. This is not a new concept. The President had the power to fast-track negotiations from 1974-1994 and again from 2002-2002. The TPA should make it easier for President Obama and Secretary Kerry to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership, if such a deal is ever achieved.

#### Charleston Shooting

In June, racist and serial loser Dylann Roof murdered nine black churchgoers at the historically significant African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. This act of terrorism against black Americans was unfortunately followed by a string of church arsons targeting black congregations. The shooting opened the door

to questions about racism, gun violence, drug use, mental health, and the Confederate flag. While some exploited the opportunity to denounce the U.S. in general and the South in particular as racist societies, the community of Charleston came together—black and white—to bravely withstand one pathetic young man's act of hatred.

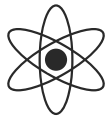


#### Greece

It has been a summer of political gambles for Alex Tsipras, the anti-austerity champion and leader of the far-left Syriza party who is searching for a new coalition to spur the Greek recovery. In July, he successfully led a charge to reject austerity measures proposed for Greece by a core group of international and European actors, only to accept even harsher measures later on. While many Greeks have accepted the bailouts and austerity as inevitable, the agreements fractured the Syriza

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party, alienating far-left members who firmly oppose austerity of any kind. With the kind of risk-taking that has come to define his time as Prime Minister, Tspiras then called for a snap September election and resigned his position. The September vote will give him the opportunity to gain reelection while shedding from Parliament the far-left “rebels” who oppose the bailouts. Such has been the Syriza roller coaster for Greece, a rough ride that, as September elections approach, threatens to derail an already dysfunctional economy.



### Iran Deal

The easing of economic sanctions and the loosening restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program means that the world may see the emergence of another nuclear armed state. What’s more troubling is that the religious extremist state is led by an oft-described moderate who, despite this classification, characterizes Israel as “the great Zionist Satan” and has said “we need to find ways to express *death to America* with action.” Though Republicans may denounce the deal, the GOP is partly responsible for its likely passage. Introduced with bipartisan support, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (the Corker Bill) removed the Constitutional classification of the deal as a treaty, which would have required a two-thirds majority in the Senate for approval. The United Nations has bizarrely agreed to allow the Iranians to investigate their own nuclear sites, further weakening an already dangerous deal.

### Sanctuary Cities

On July 1, Kathryn Steinle was walking with her father on a crowded San Francisco pier when she was fatally shot by Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, an illegal immigrant who had previously been deported five times on felony charges. As a sanctuary city, San Francisco’s policy is for law enforcement officers not to detain individuals solely for the reason of illegal entry into the country. Sanchez previously had seven felony

convictions, including possession of heroin, manufacturing narcotics, and illegal reentry into the United States. San Francisco’s status as a sanctuary city has earned criticism from individuals on both sides of the aisle. Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and California Senator Dianne Feinstein both criticized the San Francisco sheriff’s department, stating that Steinle’s death would have been avoided if San Francisco had detained Sanchez as the Immigration & Customs Enforcement Agency ordered.

### Planned Parenthood

In mid-July an anti-abortion activist group released the first of eight undercover videos revealing that Planned Parenthood sells tissue from aborted fetuses for profit. One video features an account of a former technician who harvested the brain of an extracted fetus while the fetus’s heart was still beating. She was told to cut through the baby’s face in order to access and remove the brain. It is hard to see the kicking foot of an excised fetus and not feel that there is something profoundly inhuman about the methods of these operations. One does not need to oppose abortion in all cases to oppose what Planned Parenthood is doing. Four more videos are set to be released before the federal funding deadline while many are calling for the federal government to defund Planned Parenthood.



### GOP Debate

On August 6th, 24 million people tuned in to watch the first GOP debate, making it the most viewed primary debate in history. Front and center on stage, Donald Trump immediately agitated the Republican establishment and gave Hillary Clinton a sigh of relief. If unsuccessful in winning the nomination, Trump has not ruled out a third-party run. Trump running as an Independent would virtually secure a victory for the Democratic candidate. Despite Trump’s childish behavior, he managed to strengthen his poll numbers following the debate.

The “anti-establishment” GOP candidates seem to have emerged victorious, while more serious candidates like Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush are suffering in the polls from a lack of media coverage. Pundits acknowledge that it’s too early for polls to accurately predict the nominee. Trump may be winning a plurality of support among likely voters, but in head-to-head polls he loses to Jeb, Rubio, and others. Political analysts agree that former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina dominated the “happy hour” debate that preceded the primetime debate. Fiorina’s sharp wit and powerful

criticism of Hillary Clinton ignited enthusiasm with the Republican base and afforded her crucial name recognition. Neurosurgeon Ben Carson’s calm demeanor and compelling arguments also gave him a boost in the polls.



Hillary Clinton

The scandal over Hillary Clinton’s illegal email server grew even bigger in August. When Hillary finally complied and turned over her hard drive to the FBI, investigators found it had been wiped clean. Fortunately, they may be able to recover some of the deleted emails. If

President Obama and his Justice Department ever decide to actually ensure justice is served, Hillary should at the very least face obstruction of justice charges and prison time. We’re not holding our breath. But the possibility of a Clinton being held accountable for her actions raises the question: would Hillary be able to pardon herself if she’s elected? We all know the Clintons love their pardon power—just ask Hamilton College administrators about the Susan Rosenberg incident.

### Economy

The American stock market faced a series of shocks resulting from volatile markets in China and uncertainty over Federal Reserve policy. China had already destabilized global markets a few weeks before by devaluing its currency in an attempt to boost its exports. As further weaknesses in the Chinese economy became apparent, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell over a thousand dollars in a week during a panic sell-off. It has since recovered, and the American economy remains relatively stable despite volatility in stock prices. Uncertainty remains over whether the Fed will raise interest rates in September.

*Greek flag* by Gentsidis Apostolis  
*Hillary Clinton* by Lorie Shaull  
*Elephant* by Jason Dilworth  
*Dollar bills* by Sam Holland  
*Nuclear* by Chad Wimberly

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