



## **ObamaCare’s broken promises, Defending the burkini ban, and other notable commentary**

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Iain Martin, editor of the British free-market journal Reaction, says his initial response to **France’s attempt to ban burkinis on its beaches** was “that of every good liberal sap: Wear what you like.” But on reflection, he notes that “France is under attack” from ISIS in what is “as close as you can get” to war “without a formal declaration of hostilities.” In such circumstances, he asks, “who the hell are we to get all pious and pompous with French mayors and their citizenry when they want to assert their muscular secularism?” Now lawyers in French courts are “doing battle over definitions of freedom.” Says Martin: “Try looking for that in Saudi Arabia and you won’t get very far.”

### **Health expert: Exposing O’Care’s Broken Promises**

**Aetna’s exodus from nearly all its health-insurance exchanges** is “just the latest piece of evidence that ObamaCare is a failed law built on false promises,” writes the Cato Institute’s Michael Cannon for Time. Its “only real selling point was that it supposedly guarantees access to care for people with expensive illnesses,” yet “ObamaCare itself is denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions.” And despite the president’s promises otherwise, “few Americans have as many health-insurance choices as [members of] Congress.” Cannon agrees that “no one wants the system we had before ObamaCare,” but says repealing it “would create space for a sounder and more sustainable health reform than this ongoing failure.”

### **Political analyst: Hillary Forgets Bill’s Economic Lessons**

Donald Trump's **abandonment of traditional GOP principles** "has been so spectacular that it's easy to miss that Democrats are also veering in a direction that is ominous," writes Steve Chapman of the Chicago Tribune. Veering far left to defeat Bernie Sanders may have worked for Hillary in the primaries, but it "neglects the lessons taught by another Clinton, Bill." Specifically, "Clinton knew that a booming economy is the closest thing to a cure-all. He pursued it with a combination of fiscal discipline, free trade and a light regulatory hand." But Hillary, "pushed leftward by Sanders, has forgotten what fueled that prosperity." She shows "no inclination to restore the balanced budget that Bill did so much to attain. It was an achievement that had not been realized in nearly three decades — and has not been duplicated since."

### **Mideast analyst: A Bad Defense of a Very Bad Policy**

President Obama **will likely end his term** "without having defended a single Syrian civilian from the Assad-Russia-Iran onslaught." Frederick C. Hof writes on the Atlantic Council's Web site that "this thoroughly avoidable result may well serve to define Mr. Obama . . . as a failed president." His climbdown from that "red line" in the sand concerning Syria's use of chemical weapons was "a body blow to American credibility not lost on Russia's Putin." Fact is, Obama's entire Syria policy "rests on its desire to accommodate Iran" and protect the nuclear deal. Bottom line: "A colossal mistake has been made: one fully exploited by Russia and by an Iran not likely to abandon the nuclear agreement if its [Syrian] client gets spanked."

### **Under the radar: Soros Is Remaking the Justice System**

Democratic mega-donor George Soros is **directing his wealth this year into a little-noticed campaign** "to advance one of the progressive movement's core goals — reshaping the American justice system," reports Scott Bland at Politico. He's "channeled more than \$3 million" into local district-attorney campaigns — a sum that "exceeds the total spent on the presidential campaign by all but a handful of rival super-donors." And he's doing this "through a network of state-level super PACs and a national '527' unlimited-money group, each named a variation on 'Safety and Justice.' "