



The Vacationer-In-Chief

After Two Weeks, Obama Wraps Up His “Utter Failure” Of A Vacation

“AS THE WORLD BURNS,” OBAMA SET OFF ON HIS TONE DEAF VACATION IN MARTHA’S VINEYARD

***The Washington Post* Headline: “President Obama Did Not Pick A Good Week To Go On Vacation”**

(Katie Zezima, “President Obama Did Not Pick A Good Week To Go On Vacation,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/17/14)

- **“There May Be No Good Week For The President Of The United States To Take A Nice, Restful Break. But There Are Definitely Bad Ones. This Was One Of Them.”** (Katie Zezima, “President Obama Did Not Pick A Good Week To Go On Vacation,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/17/14)

Obama’s Plan To Spend Two Weeks In Martha’s Vineyard “Has Been An Utter Failure.” “President Barack Obama really wanted to take a vacation. But then the world intervened. The president’s plan to snag two weeks off in Martha’s Vineyard has been an utter failure, marking his worst attempt at relaxation since the Detroit underwear bomber consumed his 2009 Christmas holiday in Hawaii.” (Carrie ABudoff Brown, “Barack Obama’s ‘Vacation From Hell,’” [Politico](#), 8/15/14)

After Updating The American People On A New Bombing Campaign In Iraq, Obama “Boarded Marine One For A Two-Week Trip To Martha’s Vineyard.” “Obama stood on the South Lawn on Saturday updating Americans on the new bombing campaign in Iraq — and then he boarded Marine One for a two-week trip to Martha’s Vineyard.” (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “Dana Milbank: Obama Vacations As The World Burns,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/11/14)

- **Obama Vacationed “Against The Backdrop Of U.S. Airstrikes.”** “And this year, Obama is vacationing against the backdrop of U.S. airstrikes and political chaos in Iraq, along with tensions between Israel and Hamas and between Russia and Ukraine.” (Julie Pace, “Foreign Policy Crises Intrude On Obama Vacations,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/11/14)

Obama’s “Highly Visible Wartime Vacation” Occurred “As Iraq’s Political Crisis Worsened, NATO’s Chief Declared A ‘High Probability’ Of Russian Military Intervention In Ukraine And Gaza Remained On A Knife Edge.” “The highly visible wartime vacation (Obama allowed himself to be photographed on a putting green Saturday with NBA star Ray Allen and retired pro-football player Ahmad Rashad) was not looking any better Monday as Iraq’s political crisis worsened, NATO’s chief declared a ‘high probability’ of Russian military intervention in Ukraine and Gaza remained on a knife edge.” (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “Obama Vacations As The World Burns,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/11/14)

Obama’s Trip Was Called “Tone Deaf” And “Detached”

The Washington Post’s Dana Millbank: “[O]bama Was Doggedly Sticking With His Plans To Go On Vacation — A Decision That, If Not In The Category Of Stupid Stuff, Could Fit Under The Heading Of

‘Tone Deafness.’ “As the criticism became public, Obama was doggedly sticking with his plans to go on vacation — a decision that, if not in the category of stupid stuff, could fit under the heading of ‘tone deafness.’” (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “Obama Vacations As The World Burns,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/11/14)

- **The Washington Post Headline: “Obama Vacations As The World Burns”** (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “Obama Vacations As The World Burns,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/11/14)

CNN’s Gloria Borger Called The Optics Of Obama Golfing During World Crises “Not Terrific.”

BORGER: “I’m not sure there’s ever a good time presidential vacations and, you know, I believe a president is entitled to have some time off. I think the optics of what you were just showing, Wolf, is not terrific for the President.” (CNN’s [“The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer.”](#) 8/12/14)

The Vacation “Provided Fresh Grist For Critics Who Questioned Obama’s Ability To Project An Image Of Strong Leadership In Crisis Situations.” “The contrast provided fresh grist for critics who questioned Obama’s ability to project an image of strong leadership in crisis situations -- and marked the latest episode in his long history of star-crossed presidential vacations.” (Katie Zezima, “President Obama Did Not Pick A Good Week To Go On Vacation,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/17/14)

- **The Washington Post’s Dana Milbank: “It’s Understandable That Obama Would Want To Get Away From It All, But For A President Struggling To Build Support For His Foreign Policy, Vacationing During A Crisis Is No Day At The Beach.”** (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “Obama Vacations As The World Burns,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/11/14)

WHILE CRISES ERUPTED, OBAMA STUCK TO A SCHEDULE OF GOLFING, DANCING, AND FUNDRAISING

Despite The Looming Crises, Obama “Found Plenty Of Time To Put Work Aside And Enjoy The Island.” “As with past vacations, Obama has still found plenty of time to put work aside and enjoy the island. He’s already played two rounds of golf since arriving Saturday, and on Monday he headed to the beach with his family.” (Julie Pace, “Foreign Policy Crises Intrude On Obama Vacations,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/11/14)

- **During His Vacation, Obama Attended A Fundraiser, A Birthday Party, A Jazz Concert And Went On A Bike Ride.** “He went for one family bike ride, attended one fundraiser, partied at one birthday bash and took in one jazz concert with the first lady.” (Mary Bruce, “President Obama’s Vacation by The Numbers,” [ABC News](#), 8/18/14)

Obama Has Played Eight Rounds Of Golf During His Vacation. “The president — on a nearly two-week vacation on Martha’s Vineyard, Mass. — took in some time on the course Thursday afternoon with former basketball player Alonzo Mourning, longtime friend Cy Walker and attorney Preston Heard. It is the 8th round of golf for Obama during his summer vacation.” (Amie Parnes, “Obama Hits Links For Eighth Time,” [The Hill](#), 8/21/14)

While In Martha’s Vineyard, Obama Attended A Birthday Party For Democratic Advisor Vernon Jordan’s Wife. “Obama’s vacation has also been infused with a dose of politics. He headlined a fundraiser on the island for Democratic Senate candidates and attended a birthday party for veteran Democratic adviser Vernon Jordan’s wife, where he spent time with former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton.” (Julie Pace, “Obama Back In Washington On Rare Vacation Break,” [The Associated Press](#), 8/18/14)

- **“The Party Is At The Island Home Of Vernon Jordan, Who Acted As An Adviser To Former President Bill Clinton During His White House Years. He’s Married To A Cousin Of Valerie Jarrett, A Top Obama Aide.”** (Jim Acosta, “After Criticism Of Obama Policy, Hillary Clinton To Party With President,” [CNN](#), 8/12/14)
- **The White House Print Pool Revealed A Menu Of Surf And Turf And A Night Of Dancing.** “Yes, citizens of Ferguson, you may sleep easier tonight knowing that the much-trumpeted party for

Vernon Jordan's wife Ann, the party at which Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were supposed to hug, ended amicably. The White House pool report added more detail. The menu consisted of surf and turf and pasta. The Obamas danced nearly every song.” (Philip Bump, “White House Spokesman Tweets While Ferguson Erupts: ‘A Good Time Was Had By All,’” [The Washington Post](#), 8/13/14)

Amidst Protests In Missouri, White House Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz Offered An Update Via Twitter On The Party That Said “A Good Time Was Had By All.” “It's 11 p.m. ET, hours after law enforcement officers appeared on the streets of Ferguson, Mo., in armored vehicles, hours after two reporters (including the Post's Wesley Lowery) were arrested, and shortly after another night of unrest and tear gas unfolded on the streets of the St. Louis suburb. At 10:17 p.m., deputy White House press secretary Eric Schultz offered word from the administration, currently camped out on Martha's Vineyard where the president is vacationing.” (Philip Bump, “White House Spokesman Tweets While Ferguson Erupts: ‘A Good Time Was Had By All,’” [The Washington Post](#), 8/13/14)

DURING HIS VACATION, OBAMA BARELY LET ANYTHING GET IN THE WAY OF HIS ISLAND ACTIVITIES

Just Minutes After Addressing The Crisis In Iraq, Obama Arrived At A Democratic Fundraiser

Obama Gave A Brief Unscheduled Statement On Iraq That Lasted Four Minutes. “By Monday afternoon, the crises had forced Obama to revise his schedule. The White House announced that the president, after returning from the beach, would make an unscheduled statement about Iraq. He freshened up at his 8,100-square-foot vacation home, then stepped outside, in a blue blazer and open collar; his aides wisely chose a wooded backdrop rather than one with the infinity pool and the sweeping water views. Obama finished his four-minute statement and then hopped in his motorcade for the ride to a Democratic fundraiser.” (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “Obama Vacations As The World Burns,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/11/14)

Obama Went Directly To The Democratic Fundraiser From His Statement On Iraq. “Obama finished his four-minute statement and then hopped in his motorcade for the ride to a Democratic fundraiser.” (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “Obama Vacations As The World Burns,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/11/14)

- **“Such Visuals Probably Won’t Help Obama With The 60 Percent Of Americans Who Disapprove Of His Handling Of Foreign Policy. Even His Former Secretary Of State Is Registering Her Disapproval.”** (Dana Milbank, Op-Ed, “Obama Vacations As The World Burns,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/11/14)

And Obama Was Always Quick To Return To The Golf Course After Addressing The Nation

Obama Arrived At The Golf Course “Just Four Minutes” After Making His Statement On The Situation In Ferguson, Missouri. “Obama hit the links just four minutes after making his statement Thursday, calling for peace and restraint following the shooting of an unarmed black teen.” (Zachary A. Goldfarb, “President Obama May Receive More Criticism For Vacationing During A Crisis,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/15/14)

Obama Returned To The Golf Course Shortly After Delivering His Statement On James Foley. “Shortly after delivering a statement denouncing the execution of American journalist James Foley by Islamist militants in Iraq, President Obama hit the golf course on Wednesday.” (Justin Sink, “Obama Returns To Golf Course After Condemning ISIS,” [The Hill](#), 8/20/14)

- ***The Hill: “Obama Completed The Statement At A School In Martha’s Vineyard Where He Is Vacationing, Before Arriving Minutes Later At A Local Golf Club.”*** (Justin Sink, “Obama Returns To Golf Course After Condemning ISIS,” [The Hill](#), 8/20/14)

OBAMA HAS A LONG HABIT OF VACATIONING DURING CRISES

Obama's Past Summer Vacations Have Coincided With Unrest Around The World And International Crises, Primarily In The Middle East And North Africa. "Foreign policy crises have a way of intruding on President Barack Obama's Martha's Vineyard vacations. Obama's last three summer sojourns to this Massachusetts island have coincided with tumult primarily in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as elsewhere around the world." (Julie Pace, "Foreign Policy Crises Intrude On Obama Vacations," [The Associated Press](#), 8/11/14)

In 2011, Obama's Trip Was Interrupted "By Briefings And Calls To Foreign Leaders As Opposition Fighters In Libya Gained Against The Government Of Moammar Gadhafi." "In 2011, the president's golf outings and beach time were interrupted by briefings and calls to foreign leaders as opposition fighters in Libya gained against the government of Moammar Gadhafi." (Julie Pace, "Foreign Policy Crises Intrude On Obama Vacations," [The Associated Press](#), 8/11/14)

- **In 2011, Obama Faced Criticism For Vacationing While 14 Million Americans Were Unemployed And Cut His Vacation Short Due To A Hurricane.** "In 2011, Obama was blasted for vacationing here as 14 million people were out of work. He ended up cutting the vacation short because of a hurricane." (Katie Zezima, "President Obama Did Not Pick A Good Week To Go On Vacation," [The Washington Post](#), 8/17/14)

In 2013, Obama's Trip "Coincided With The Egyptian Military's Ouster Of That Country's First Democratically Elected Leader." "After skipping vacation while running for re-election in 2012, Obama returned to Martha's Vineyard in 2013 for a trip that coincided with the Egyptian military's ouster of that country's first democratically elected leader." (Julie Pace, "Foreign Policy Crises Intrude On Obama Vacations," [The Associated Press](#), 8/11/14)

OBAMA WASN'T ALONE: THE OTHER ARCHITECTS OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY WERE ALSO ON VACATION DURING THE CRISES

Vice President Biden Vacationed In Southampton Village Last Week

Biden Traveled To Southampton Village And Stayed At A Private Home On Lake Agawam. "Vice President Joe Biden has once again retreated to Southampton Village for his annual Hampton vacation. Mr. Biden, who is traveling with his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, is staying in a private home on Lake Agawam through Friday, village officials have confirmed." (Erin McKinley, "Vice President Biden Vacationing In Southampton; Agawam Lake Ferry Start Date Pushed Back," [The Southampton Press](#), 8/13/14)

Former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton Vacationed In The Hamptons And Partied In Martha's Vineyard Alongside Obama

Clinton Vacationed In The Hamptons During The Crises. "The Clintons have spent the last several summers on the shores of Long Island, N.Y. Last year, they spent a couple weeks in August in an \$11 million house on a 3.5-acres in Sagaponack. In 2012, they vacationed at a 12,000-square-foot East Hampton estate with a heated pool and eight bedrooms. This summer, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton chose Amagansett, a hamlet on Montauk Highway not far from the surfer haven of Montauk on Long Island's eastern end." (Amy Chozick, "For The Clintons, Vacation In The Hamptons Begins With A Fund-Raiser," [The New York Times](#), 8/1/14)

Clinton And Obama "Found Themselves On The Same Small Island Wednesday With Very Different Objectives" During Their Respective Vacations To Martha's Vineyard. "President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton found themselves on the same small island Wednesday with very different objectives. The president was seeking an escape from the White House. His former secretary of state was taking steps that could land her there. A scheduling quirk brought Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton to Martha's Vineyard just a few days after she caused a political kerfuffle with a pointed critique of the president's foreign

policy, the sharpest sign of disagreement between the onetime rivals and sometime allies.” (Colleen McCain Nelson, “Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama ‘Hug It Out’ on Martha’s Vineyard,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/13/14)