Contents



On the cover

The French president, Emmanuel Macron, faces his first real test, *page 50*. His problems are more to do with presentation than policy: leader, *page 11*

• The best way out of the Brexit mess Parliament cannot agree on what kind of Brexit the people want. It should ask them: leader, page 12. If Parliament rejects Theresa May's Brexit deal with the European Union next week, the result could be anything from no deal to no Brexit, page 55. When it comes to a second referendum, the medium shapes the message, page 56

• China's petrified private sector High-flying private firms face an advance by the state: Schumpeter, page 67

• Revolution in Ethiopia A new prime minister promises freedom. Ethnic separatists could wreck his plans: leader, *page 14*. Ethiopia's new prime minister tries to allow liberty, but not anarchy, *page 47*

• Goodbye to George H.W. Bush The 41st president of the United States, died on November 30th: Obituary, page 86

The world this week

8 A round-up of political and business news

Leaders

- 11 French politics Macron's nightmare
- 12 British politics The best way out of the Brexit mess
- 14 Ethiopia Liberty and disintegration
- 14 Pollution in India Dirty work
- 16 Satellites Round and round they go

Letters

18 On Brexit, teachers, glyphosate, Northern Ireland, Greece, government

Briefing

21 Internet connectivity A worldwide web in space

United States

- 27 The Mueller investigation
- 30 Conservative media30 The hot labour market
- **32** Voting patterns
- 32 Ballot stuffing
- 33 The partisan brain
- 34 Lexington US-Pakistan relations

The Americas

- 35 Violence falls in Central America
- 36 Cuban business
- 37 Bello Chile's improving president

Asia

- 39 Indian pollution
- 40 Protest music in Thailand
- 41 South Korean feminists
- **42 Banyan** Australia's self-harming Liberals

China

- 43 Forty years of reform
- **46 Chaguan** On the China-Russia border









Middle East & Africa

- 47 Ethiopia's revolution
- **49** Tensions rise in the Gulf **49** The go-to app for goats



>> Contents continues overleaf

•

@*#!9

Johnson The lexicon of 2018 is depressing. But the buzz words won't last, page 82

‡@

Europe

- 50 Protest in France
- 51 The right wing in Spain
- 52 Mikhail Fridman
- 53 Reforming the euro zone
- 54 Charlemagne The UN's migration compact

Britain

- 55 Brexit and Parliament
- 56 A People's Vote
- 57 Don't count on the markets
- 57 The DUP's policy on Brexit
- **58 Bagehot** Our end-of-year awards

International

59 Preventing genocide







Business

- 61 Dell prepares to go public
- 62 Bartleby Paul Polman
- 63 Nautilus plunges
- 64 Shell and climate change
- 65 Taxing tech giants
- 65 The lingerie market
- 66 Takeda buys Shire
- 67 Schumpeter China's fearful private sector

Finance & economics

- 69 Huawei and the US-China relationship
- 70 The new NAFTA
- 70 Asset purchases in Europe
- 71 Danske Bank charged
- 72 Buttonwood Political risk in emerging markets
- 73 Uranium's U-turn
- 73 Financial scams
- 74 Payment in kind in China
- 75 Free exchange Future lives matter

Science & technology

- 76 Gut bacteria and autism
- 77 Sampling an asteroid
- 78 Polio eradication
- 78 Dark matter



Books & arts

- **79** Belgium's revamped Africa Museum
- 80 The Somali diaspora
- 81 AI in the ancient world
- 81 Roman history lessons
- 82 Johnson Words of the year

Economic & financial indicators

84 Statistics on 42 economies

Graphic detail

85 The surprising fall in transatlantic airfares

Obituary

86 George H.W. Bush, a kinder, gentler president



Volume 429 Number 9121

Published since September 1843 to take part in "a severe contest between intelligence, which presses forward, and an unworthy, timid ignorance obstructing our progress."

Editorial offices in London and also: Amsterdam, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Cairo, Chicago, Johannesburg, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow, Mumbai, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington DC

Subscription service

For our full range of subscription offers, including digital only or print and digital combined, visit: Economist.com/offers

You can also subscribe by mail, telephone or email: North America

 The Economist Subscription Center,

 P.O. Box 46978, St. Louis, MO 63146-6978

 Telephone:
 +1 800 456 6086

 Email:
 customerhelp@economist.com

Latin America & Mexico

 The Economist Subscription Center,

 P.O. Box 46979, St. Louis, MO 63146-6979

 Telephone:
 +1 636 449 5702

 Email:
 customerhelp@economist.com

One-year print-only subscription (51 issues):

United States	US \$158.25 (plus tax)
Canada	CA \$158.25 (plus tax)
Latin America	US \$289 (plus tax)





PEFC certified This copy of *The Economist* is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed forests certified to PEFC www.pefc.org

© 2018 The Economist Newspaper Limited. All rights reserved. Neither this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of The Economist Newspaper Limited. *The Economist* (ISSN 0013-0613) is published every week, except for a year-end double issue, by The Economist Newspaper Limited, 750 3rd Avenue, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10017. *The Economist* is a registered trademark of The Economist Newspaper Limited. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. **Postmaster**: Send address changes to The Economist, P.O. Box 46978, St. Louis, MO. 63146-6978, USA. Canada Post publications mail (Canadian distribution) sales agreement no. 40012331. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to The Economist, PO Box 7258 STNA, Toronto, ON MSW 1X9. GST R12326267. Printed by Quad/Graphics, Saratoga Springs, NY 12865