The Economist

Who is leading in Chinese AI?

Why a cleaner India is a hotter India

Bukele: from cool to cruel

MAGA v foreign students

MAY 31ST-JUNE 6TH 2025

New, untested and dangerous

A special report on American finance



Australia	A\$16.99(Inc.GST)
Bangladesh.	TK850
Cambodia	US\$14.00
	The second second second second

Contents



On the cover

American finance is exceptional. Under Donald Trump, it is also exceptionally dangerous: leader, page 7. Innovative financial giants have supplanted banks atop Wall Street. Thomas Bennett hails their dynamism, but warns against hubris, see our special report, after page 38

Who is leading in Chinese AI? The battle to cash in heats up, page 22

Why a cleaner India is a hotter India If its awful air pollution is ever solved, temperatures will rise: leader, page 10, and analysis, page 17

Bukele: from cool to cruel

First he busted gangs, now El Salvador's president busts critics: leader, page 8. How Nayib Bukele is devolving from tech-savvy reformer to textbook autocrat: briefing, page 14

MAGA v foreign students The Trump administration wants to remake American universities. Instead it is damaging them: leader, page 8. How it is driving talent away, page 27. New levies

on foreigners in the tax bill,

page 26

→ The digital element of your subscription means that you can search our archive, read all of our daily journalism, listen to podcasts and watch videos on our app or website.

The world this week

5 A summary of political and business news

Leaders

- 7 American finance New and untested
- 8 Universities
 How to repel talent
- 8 El Salvador A dictator's progress
- 9 Saving the NHS Labour's chance
- 10 India's climate
 Turn on the air-con

Letters

12 On free speech, the Baltics and Russia, English in India, Catholicism, Adele and guinea pigs

By Invitation

13 Carl Benedikt Frey on protecting businesses

Briefing

14 El Salvador From cool to cruel

Special report: The transformation of Wall Street

A new financial order After page 38



Bartleby How to keep calm and carry on, page 55



Asia

- 17 Heat in South Asia
- 18 Air-conditioning India
- 19 Myanmar's scam centres
- 19 Australia's conservatives
- 20 Banyan Gujarati clout



China

- 22 China sees AI differently
- 23 Carbon emissions
- 24 Pay now, buy later



United States

- 25 The Senate's big do-over
- 26 Taxing foreigners
- 27 International students
- 27 Bookworms and borders
- 28 Immigration detention
- 29 The Zillennial election
- 30 Lexington An Islamic centre in Texas



The Americas

- 31 Oh, Alberta
- 32 The Surrealist boom
- 33 Dead quiet in Caracas



Middle East & Africa

- 34 Bibi's addiction to crises
- 35 The losers of the new Middle East
- 36 A massacre in Ethiopia
- 37 Africans in Russia
- 38 The new Afrobeats



Contents

Europe

- 39 China and the EU
- 40 Baptism booms in France
- 41 Turkey's outraged youth
- 42 The war in the air
- 43 Charlemagne An Airbus of everything



Britain

- 44 NHS ten-year plan
- **46 Bagehot** Middle-class consciousness



International

- 47 Uber of the underworld
- **49 The Telegram** Stealing China's foreign policy



Business

- 50 The benefits of bigness
- 51 Europe's Sino-American problem
- 53 Poor deregulation
- 53 China's AI contest
- 54 Clearer skies for Boeing
- 55 Bartleby Crisis control
- 56 Schumpeter Korea Inc's moment



Finance & economics

- 57 Courts v tariffs
- 58 Regulatory revolution
- 59 Soaring bond yields
- 60 AI and jobs
- 61 India's investment
- **62 Buttonwood** Mitigating currency risk
- 63 Free exchange China's 21st-century economy



Science & technology

- 64 Roman scrolls
- 65 Starship fails again
- 66 Paintings with acne
- 66 Toxic snakes
- 67 Well informed Prostate cancer screening



Culture

- 68 Xi Jinping's father
- **69** Second-world-war Hungary
- 70 Museums' storehouses
- 71 Back Story A failed cancellation
- 72 Rhyme in decline



Economic & financial indicators

73 Statistics on 42 economies

Obituary

74 Simon Mann, the go-to man for private military assistance

Volume 455 Number 9450 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, Cape Town, Chicago, Dubai, Lagos, Madrid, Mexico City, Montevideo, Mumbai, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, Washington DC

Subscription service

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

If you are experiencing problems when trying to subscribe, please visit our Help pages at: www.economist.com/help for troubleshooting advice.

To manage your account online, please visit my.economist.com where you can also access our live chat service which is available 24/7. To call us, contact our dedicated service centre on:

Asia: 001800 7711 2711 Singapore: +61 2915 75069





PEFC certified
This copy of The Economist
is printed on paper sourced
from sustainably managed
forests, recycled and
controlled sources
certified by PEFC

© 2025 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, mechan otherwise, without the prior permission of The Economist Newspaper Limited. Published every week, except for a year-end double issue, by The Economist Newspaper Limited. The Economist is a registered trademark

Limited. Publisher: The Economist. Printed by Times Printers (in Singapore). MDDI (P) 033/09/2024. PPS 677/11/2012(022861)