

### On the cover

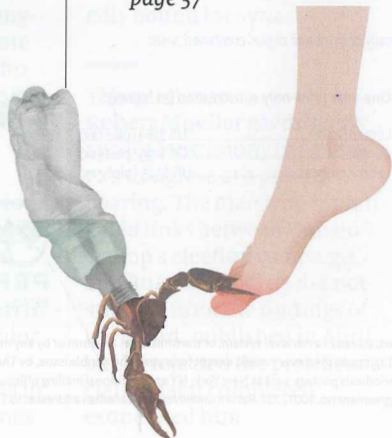
**Buckle up, Britain.** Boris Johnson promises thrills but is heading for a serious spill: leader, page 7. The new prime minister will lead a fragile—and potentially short-lived—government, page 48. Why predicting the impact of no-deal is so hard, page 49. The hazards of having a prime minister who hates to be hated: Bagehot, page 50

• **The new Russia-China partnership** The close relationship between Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping is much better for China than it is for Russia: leader, page 8. How Vladimir Putin's embrace of China weakens Russia: briefing, page 15

• **Heatwaves and climate change** Extreme heat is a silent killer. Countries must do more to adapt: leader, page 9. Greenhouse-gas emissions contribute to the rising frequency of heatwaves, page 67

• **Microsoft's lessons for other tech giants** What the software company's surprising comeback can teach its tech rivals, page 10

• **Liberal Canada: a special report** As many Western countries turn to populism, Canadians will soon decide if they want to remain a liberal beacon, says Brooke Unger, after page 40



### The world this week

- 5 A summary of political and business news

### Leaders

- 7 **Britain's new prime minister**  
Here we go
- 8 **Russia and China**  
Brothers in arms
- 9 **Heatwaves**  
Hot as hell
- 9 **Currency wars**  
Do not escalate
- 10 **Microsoft**  
Rebooted

### Letters

- 12 On conservatism, taxing assets, Uzbekistan, Nazi operations, work

### Briefing

- 15 **Russia and China**  
The junior partner

### Special report: Canada

**The liberal north**  
After page 40



**Schumpeter** The plastics business has yet to come to terms with a backlash against its products, page 57

### United States

- 19 Overcrowded primaries
- 20 Mueller's testimony
- 21 New Orleans and snow
- 22 Indian-Americans
- 23 **Lexington Hotshots** in Alaska



### The Americas

- 28 Corruption in Brazil
- 29 Picking judges in Guatemala
- 29 Poor but sexy Oaxaca
- 30 **Bello** Latin America and Europe



### Asia

- 31 Taiwan's president
- 32 North-east Asia's contested skies
- 33 Indian politics
- 33 Pakistan and America
- 34 **Banyan** Japan's identity



### China

- 35 Hong Kong's protests
- 36 International reactions to Xinjiang



### Middle East & Africa

- 37 The Gulf crisis
- 38 Croquet in Egypt
- 38 Separatism in Ethiopia
- 39 South African politics
- 40 Africa's coal craze



**Europe**

- 41 Ukraine's elections
- 42 Protests in Moscow
- 42 Kosovo's prime minister resigns
- 43 Berlin's Jewish Museum
- 44 Malta and abortion
- 44 Tour de France
- 46 **Charlemagne** The muscles from Brussels



**Britain**

- 48 The new government
- 49 No-deal forecasts
- 50 **Bagehot** Lonely at the top



**International**

- 51 Designing parliamentary chambers



**Business**

- 53 Greening American utilities
- 54 Tech in the crosshairs
- 55 **Bartleby** The curse of efficiency
- 56 Lego v Barbie in China
- 56 Germany's no-frills grocers
- 57 **Schumpeter** The plastics business



**Finance & economics**

- 59 Europe's bright spots
- 60 Currencies, trade and Trump
- 61 Land of the tax-free
- 61 Profiting from robo-advice
- 62 **Buttonwood** The auto-technocrats
- 63 Pricing live music
- 63 The perils of fine print
- 64 **Free exchange** Culture and growth



**Science & technology**

- 67 Heatwaves and climate
- 68 Living tree stumps
- 70 Flat lenses



**Books & arts**

- 71 Fact and fiction on film
- 72 A hero of the resistance
- 73 Islam in America
- 73 Kipling in Vermont
- 74 Gaia meets AI



**Economic & financial indicators**

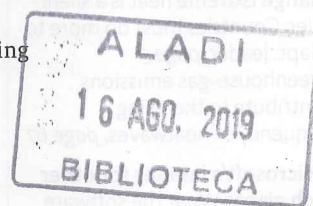
- 76 Statistics on 42 economies

**Graphic detail**

- 77 Yield curves and economic growth across the rich world

**Obituary**

- 78 Li Peng, the butcher of Beijing



The Economist

Volume 432 Number 9153

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:customerhelp@economist.com)

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

United States.....US \$189 (plus tax)  
 Canada.....CA \$199 (plus tax)  
 Latin America.....US \$325 (plus tax)



PEFC certified  
 This copy of *The Economist* is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed forests certified to PEFC  
[www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)