

The Economist

Strongman stand-off: Trump v Modi

How McKinsey lost its edge

The anthropology of Chinese AI

An economist's guide to life

AUGUST 9TH-15TH 2025

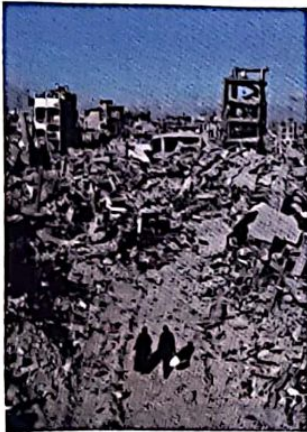
WHY ISRAEL MUST HOLD ITSELF TO ACCOUNT

CT-E.
684



Australia	AS\$19.99 (inc GST)	Hong Kong	HK\$1.35	Korea	₩17,500	New Zealand	NZ\$22.99	Qatar	QR 27.00
Bangladesh	TK900	India	₹600	Malaysia	RM44.00	Pakistan	PKR2100	Taiwan	NT\$73400
Cambodia	US\$16.00	Indonesia	Rp170,000	Myanmar	US\$16.00	Philippines	₱440	Thailand	฿140
China	RMB135	Japan	¥1,820+Tax	Nepal	NR1100	Singapore	S\$21.00 (inc GST)	Vietnam	₫1,816,000

Contents



On the cover

Why Israel must hold itself to account and how it can be made to do so: leader, page 7. Israel's legal system claims to be fiercely independent. On the Gaza war it is largely silent: briefing, page 15. The consequences of hunger and destruction will linger for years to come, page 36. More and more Israelis are outraged by their government's conduct, page 38. Global courts are failing dismally to cope with geopolitics, page 49. The post-1945 order is crumbling. History offers a glimpse of alternatives that might work: The Telegram, page 51

Strongman stand-off: Trump v Modi A dispute over tariffs and oil escalates, page 21. India's bet on Russian energy may be about to go very wrong. China could benefit, page 63

How McKinsey lost its edge The world's most illustrious consultancy is stumbling, page 52. McKinsey and its rivals need a strategic rethink: leader, page 9. Do consultants make good chief executives? Page 53

The anthropology of Chinese AI Six months after a breakthrough at DeepSeek, China's adoption of AI only quickens, page 23

An economist's guide to life How the dismal science helps with big decisions: Free exchange, page 66

→ Download *The Economist's* app for articles, podcasts, videos and more, published throughout the week.

The world this week

5 A summary of political and business news

Leaders

7 **War in Gaza**
Why Israel must hold itself to account

8 **Trump's tariffs**
Dreadful but durable

9 **Buy now, pay later**
Credit where it's due

9 **Management consulting**
Ripe for transformation

10 **Paradigm shifts**
New ways of looking at new ways of looking

Letters

12 On cancer, AI and the web, emissions and cars in Europe, William F. Buckley, the Big Mac index, underpants

By Invitation

14 Ekrem Imamoglu on Turkey's future

Briefing

15 **Israel's war crimes**
At war with the law



Bartleby Max Flannel, our office agony uncle, answers a bulging postbag on greeting etiquette, page 55



Asia

19 Pakistan's moment?

20 Politics in Malaysia

21 Modi v Trump

22 **Banyan Nuclear nightmares**

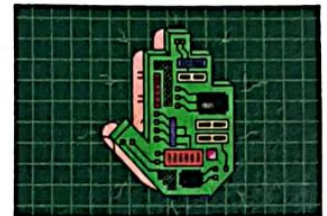


China

23 After DeepSeek

24 Swapping nurseries for care homes

25 Shanxi's addiction to coal



United States

27 MAGA and Israel

28 Redistricting maths

29 Politicising data

30 National parks in peril

31 Alligator Alcatraz

32 **Lexington Trump and Brazil**



The Americas

33 The Peronists v Milei

34 A president for life

35 Panama's plan B



Middle East & Africa

36 Gaza's destruction

38 Israelis and Gaza

38 Malaria and climate change

39 Flying in Africa

40 Hunger in Sudan



» Contents continues overleaf