

The Economist

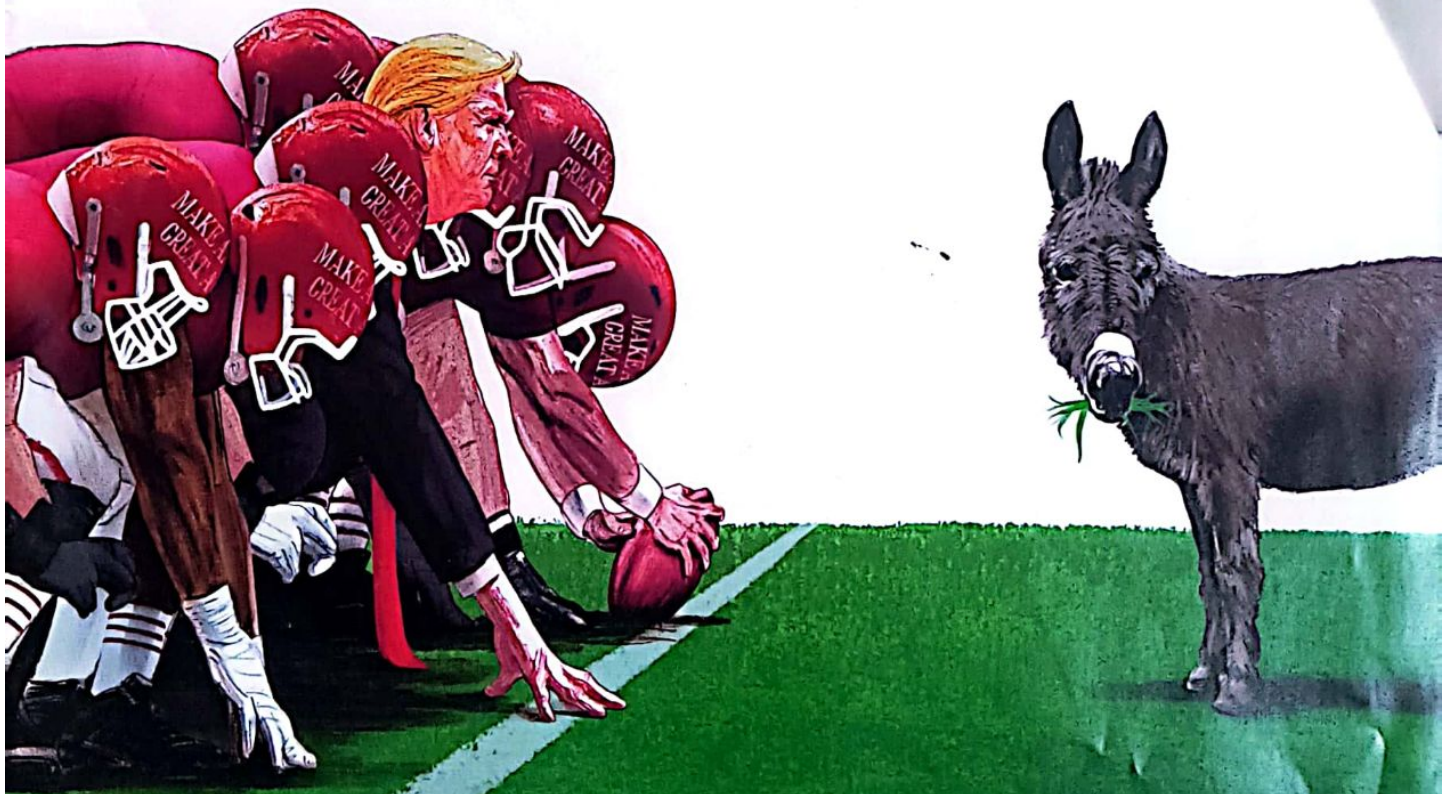
Indonesia on the brink

Boom time for arms dealers

A new way to prevent cancer

The perils of book-spurning

SEPTEMBER 6TH-12TH 2025



AMERICA'S MISSING OPPOSITION



Australia	A\$19.99 (inc. GST)	Hong Kong	HK\$135	Korea	Won 17,500	New Zealand	NZ\$22.99	Sri Lanka	Rs. 2700
Bangladesh	TK900	India	₹600	Malaysia	RM44.00	Pakistan	PKR2100	Taiwan	NT\$400
Cambodia	US\$16.00	Indonesia	Rp170,000	Myanmar	US\$16.00	Philippines	Pesos 770	Thailand	Baht 440
China	RMB135	Japan	¥1,820 + Tax	Nepal	NR1100	Singapore	S\$21.00 (inc. GST)	Vietnam	US\$16.00

Contents



On the cover

Donald Trump is unpopular. Why is it so hard to stand up to him? Leader, page 7. The Democrats are trying to talk less about pronouns, more about prices: briefing, page 15. Gaurav Kapadia on how to make the party relevant again: By invitation, page 14

Indonesia on the brink President Prabowo Subianto should heed protesters rather than crush them: leader, page 9. Protests are testing his commitment to democracy, page 19

Boom time for arms dealers A ferocious global arms race is big business for South Korea and Turkey, page 49

A new way to prevent cancer Encouraging the growth of healthy cells may prevent the spread of cancerous ones, page 67

The perils of book-spurning Scholars fear that the decline of reading is making politics dumber, page 71

→ 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 America's opposition Gone missing
- 8 Europe Fiscal fist fight
- 9 Chinese diplomacy Xi's anti-American party
- 9 Indonesia On the brink
- 10 Ed and tech Ring the changes

Letters

- 12 On NATO and the Arctic, electricity prices, swimming pools, New Orleans, fantasy football

By Invitation

- 14 Gaurav Kapadia on reviving the Democrats

Briefing

- 15 The Democrats Big mess v big man



Well informed Forget the scaremongering. Seed oils are healthier than common alternatives, page 70



Asia

- 19 Protests in Indonesia
- 20 India's warplanes
- 21 Sri Lanka's economy
- 22 Banyan Charming Trump



China

- 23 Super-connected cities
- 24 Unorthodox life hacks
- 26 A huge parade
- 26 Migrants shun America



United States

- 27 Public universities
- 28 Tariffs and the courts
- 29 Phones in schools
- 30 Drones and drugs
- 31 The five Republican tribes
- 32 Lexington A tale of two veterans



The Americas

- 33 Mexico's gas worries
- 34 A pallid plan for Pemex
- 35 Aiming at Haiti's gangs



Middle East & Africa

- 36 Israel's rampant settlers
- 37 The latest Iran crisis
- 38 Boomtown Baghdad
- 38 Opioids in Africa
- 39 New skyscrapers



▶▶ Contents continues overleaf