

The Economist

America's ICE test

London: hub not hellhole

A deep dive into AI and jobs

In praise of power naps

JANUARY 31ST - FEBRUARY 6TH 2026

Xi's purge

Why it should worry the world

707



Australia.....A\$19.00 (incl GST)	Hong Kong.....HK\$135	Korea.....₩13,500	New Zealand.....NZ\$27.00	Sri Lanka.....Rs.2700
Bangladesh.....TK900	India.....₹700	Malaysia.....RM14.00	Pakistan.....PKR1000	Taiwan.....NT\$400
Cambodia.....\$16.00	Indonesia.....Rp170,000	Myanmar.....M\$16.00	Philippines.....₱100	Thailand.....Baht440
China.....¥135	Japan.....¥1,820+Tax	Nepal.....NR1100	Singapore.....S\$21.00 (incl GST)	USA.....US\$16.00

Contents *this week* Politics

Contents



On the cover
Xi's risky purge. Why the removal of generals should worry the world: leader, page 7, and analysis, page 23

America's ICE test Is the president building his own paramilitary militia? Leader, page 8. Immigration agents have become Donald Trump's personal posse: briefing, page 16. A network of civil-rights activists is forming across America, page 29. Susan Collins has great authority at a critical moment: Lexington, page 34

London: hub not hellhole Labour should give it more love: leader, page 9. Its economy has suffered since 2008—but the capital has what it takes to rise again, page 49. Sadiq Khan is not an exciting mayor. But he knows his people, page 51. Contrary to social-media lore, London is one of the safest cities in the world, page 52

A deep dive into AI and jobs There is time to adapt. Use it wisely: leader, page 11, and briefing, page 62. How artificial intelligence will change office life, page 65. The threat to entry-level jobs: Bartleby, page 58

In praise of power naps You have to get the timing right, though: Well informed, page 75

→ 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 **Chinese politics** Xi Jinping's purge
- 8 **America** The ICE test
- 9 **Exchange rates** The symptom, not the cause
- 9 **London-spurning** The haters are wrong
- 10 **Nigeria and South Africa** Awake, sleeping giants
- 11 **Artificial intelligence** Don't panic, prepare

Letters

- 14 On the British state, central banks, marine conservation, a Supreme Court case, transporting ships, peace prizes

By Invitation

- 15 Nico Lange and Fabrice Pothier on how Europe can grow a spine

Briefing

- 16 **America's immigration paramilitaries** ICE rage



Schumpeter The battle between Elon Musk and Sam Altman reveals that AI bosses are regular capitalists after all, page 61



Asia

- 19 An interview with the KMT's new leader
- 20 Japan's lost pandas
- 21 Agriculture in India
- 21 Thailand's election
- 22 **Banyan** Takaichi Sanae



China

- 23 Purging generals
- 24 The corruption quagmire
- 26 Aircraft-carrier ambitions
- 28 **Chaguan** The changing human wave



United States

- 29 Inside the ICE protests
- 30 Minneapolis fallout
- 31 Congress and Greenland
- 32 Better public housing
- 33 Censoring universities
- 34 **Lexington** Susan Collins



The Americas

- 35 Venezuela's path to democracy
- 36 Carney's conundrum
- 38 Brazilian rare earths



Middle East & Africa

- 39 Optimism in South Africa...
- 40 ...and Nigeria
- 41 Congo's opposition
- 42 America and Iran
- 42 Hizbullah, humbled
- 43 Syria's IS prisons



Europe

- 44 Securing rare EURths
- 45 EU-India free-trade pact
- 46 A Russian city's war
- 46 Could Orban lose?
- 47 Paris's Metro marvel
- 48 **Charlemagne** Ghosts of empire



▶▶ Contents continues overleaf

Contents

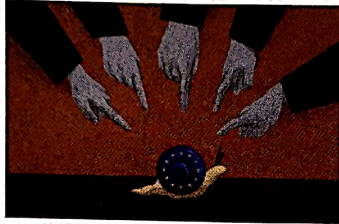
Britain

- 49 London's economy
- 51 The mayor it deserves
- 51 Labour's last bastion
- 52 The Londonistan myth
- 53 **Bagehot** The cost-of-living obsession



International

- 54 **The Telegram** Europe-bashers united



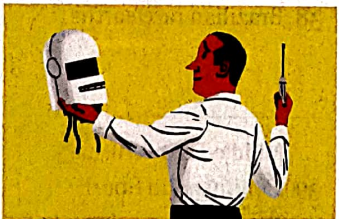
Business

- 55 The device wars
- 56 Ryanair's ascent
- 57 The future of porn
- 58 **Bartleby** The diamond-shaped firm
- 59 Gulf succession dramas
- 59 Coupang in crisis
- 60 IBM's stunning comeback
- 61 **Schumpeter** OpenAI's purpose



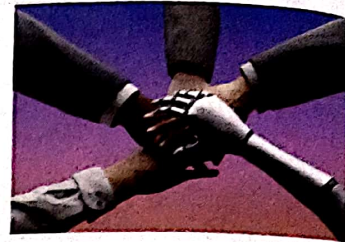
Briefing

- 62 Avoiding the pitfalls of AI in the workplace



Finance & economics

- 65 AI and office jobs
- 67 **Buttonwood** How debased is the dollar?
- 68 Russia's shadow fleet
- 69 The Big Mac index
- 70 How dangerous is Japan?
- 71 **Free exchange** A yen for trouble



Science & technology

- 72 America's Moon shot
- 74 Refreezing the Arctic
- 75 **Well informed** The benefits of napping



Culture

- 76 The Arctic
- 77 The legacy of Harry Reid
- 78 **Back Story** In flight at the Oscars
- 79 George Saunders
- 79 A viral Russian tune
- 80 Age gaps



Economic & financial indicators

- 81 Statistics on 42 economies

Obituary

- 82 Mark Tully, the BBC's "Voice of India"

Volume 458 Number 9484

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/subscribe

If you are experiencing problems when trying to subscribe, please visit our Help pages at: 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:

Asla: 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
www.pefc.org