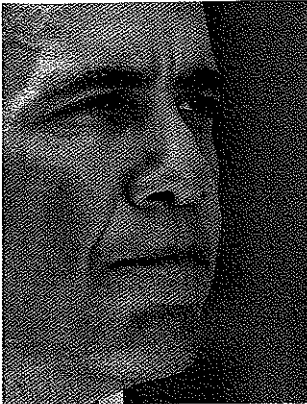


23109123

Contents



On the cover
When Congress votes on Syria it will be defining America's place in the world: leader, page 11. The president makes the case for pulling the trigger, page 35. Syria and the British establishment, page 27. David Cameron needs to relearn leadership: Bagehot, page 29. France is constrained and deeply divided over military action in Syria, page 24.

The Economist online
 Daily analysis and opinion from our 21 blogs, plus audio and video content, debates and a daily chart Economist.com/blogs
E-mail: newsletters and mobile edition Economist.com/email
Print edition: available online by 7pm London time each Thursday Economist.com/print
Audio edition: available online to download each Friday Economist.com/audioedition



Volume 408 Number 8852
 First published in 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:
 Atlanta, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Cairo, Chicago, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Moscow, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington DC

8 The world this week

Leaders

- 11 Striking Syria**
Fight this war, not the last one
- 12 Global finance**
Where's the next Lehman?
- 13 A Chinese power struggle**
Hunting tigers
- 13 Capitalism**
Why do firms exist?
- 14 3D printing**
From dental braces to astronauts' seats

Letters

- 16 On Syria, Janet Yellen, Chernobyl, crime, education, cyborgs**

Briefing

- 20 Clever cities**
The multiplexed metropolis
- 21 Urban dreamscapes**
Starting from scratch

Europe

- 23 Germany's election**
Descent into banality
- 24 France and Syria**
Obama's trailer?
- 24 Sweden and America**
A president's visit
- 25 Moscow's mayor**
Inspired by "The Wire"
- 26 Charlemagne**
European energy

Britain

- 27 The establishment and Syria**
Britannia waives
- 28 Stagecoach in America**
Tartan tyres
- 29 Bagehot**
Grounded for now

Middle East and Africa

- 31 Kenya and the international court**
It's show time
- 32 Liberia**
Skin-deep success
- 32 Ghana's Supreme Court**
Doing it properly
- 32 The Palestinians**
Lonely Hamas
- 33 The state of Egypt**
Old ways return
- 34 Iran's new government**
Cautious moves

United States

- 35 America and Syria**
Obama makes the case for bombing
- 36 Fast-food protests**
Big Labour v Big Mac
- 37 Interstate pollution**
Smother my neighbour
- 37 What state lawmakers earn**
Some work for nothing
- 38 Welfare and work**
Taxing hard-up Americans at 95%
- 40 Lexington**
Farming as rocket science

Technology Quarterly

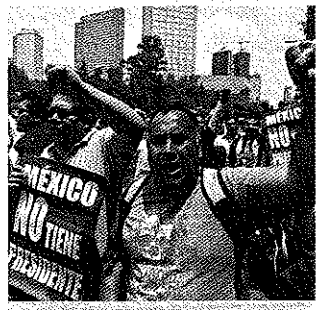
After page 40

The Americas

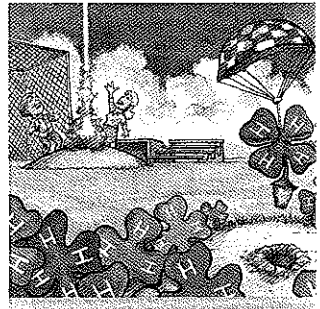
- 41 Governing Mexico**
The suits v the street
- 42 Telecoms in Canada**
Patriotic but pricey
- 42 Spying in Latin America**
Snoops and snubs



China crackdown Is Xi Jinping confronting corruption or consolidating power? Leader, page 13. China's leadership flexes its muscles by taking down allies of a former security chief, page 47



Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto sticks defiantly to his reform plans. He is in for a bumpy ride, page 41

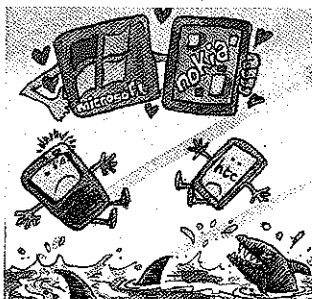


Farming as rocket science Why American agriculture is different from the European variety: Lexington, page 40

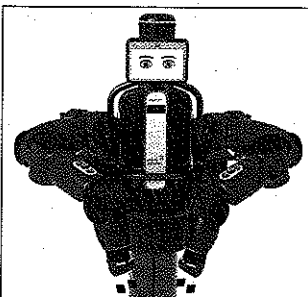
N.T. 16006120
 Col. 500107



The next Lehman Five years after the collapse of the investment bank, global finance is safer. But still not safe enough: leader, page 12. The first of a series of five "schools briefs" on the lessons of the upheaval looks at its causes, page 56



Mobile telecoms Two deals—between Vodafone and Verizon, and Microsoft and Nokia—have made the structure of the industry clearer. For many companies, however, the future is still murky, page 54



Technology Quarterly Collaborative robots, the evolution of 3D printing, the state of biofuels, high-tech fabrics, decision aids for football referees, the return of the diesel engine and much more, after page 40

Asia

- 43 **Indonesia's 2014 elections**
Let the games begin
- 44 **Damming the Mekong**
Fish-friendly?
- 44 **Central Asia and Russia**
Remittance man
- 45 **Terrorism in India**
Do Lali
- 46 **Banyan**
This Indian land is whose land?

China

- 47 **Political manoeuvring**
The plot thickens
- 48 **Another princeling trial**
Listening to the masses
- 48 **The burden on students**
Must not try harder

International

- 49 **Women in sport**
Game, sex and match
- 50 **Internet security**
Kill or cure

Business

- 51 **Casinos in Asia (1)**
The rise of the low-rollers
- 53 **Casinos in Asia (2)**
Place your bets
- 54 **Reshaping telecoms**
The big mobile-phone reset
- 55 **Schumpeter**
Montessori management

Schools brief

- 56 **The origins of the financial crisis**
Crash course

Finance and economics

- 58 **Raghuram Rajan at the RBI**
Into the pressure cooker
- 59 **The capital-freeze index**
Emerging markets at risk
- 59 **Tobacco-settlement bonds**
Unlucky strike

- 60 **Buttonwood**
Market anomalies
- 61 **Offshore tax evasion**
Swiss finished?
- 61 **Data releases**
Peeking early
- 62 **Free exchange**
Ronald Coase

Science and technology

- 63 **Solar-powered drones**
On a bright new wing
- 64 **Brain training for older people**
Put away the knitting
- 64 **Neglected diseases**
Nodding acquaintance
- 65 **Radiation and birds**
Not so blindingly obvious

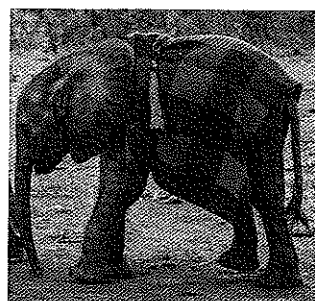
Books and arts

- 66 **Mao Zedong's revolution**
The road to serfdom
- 67 **Earthly mission**
The Catholic church and world development
- 68 **Laurence Olivier**
A man for all seasons
- 68 **David Vann's new fiction**
Kiss of death
- 69 **Britain in the 1990s**
Nice change
- 69 **Woodrow Wilson**
Negotiating world peace

- 76 **Economic and financial indicators**
Statistics on 42 economies, plus our monthly poll of forecasters

Obituary

- 78 **Seamus Heaney**
A great tree falls



Next week
We publish a special report on biodiversity. Once the preoccupation of scientists and greens, it has become a mainstream concern. Liberal helpings of growth and technology are the best way of preserving it, says Emma Duncan

Principal commercial offices:
25 St James's Street, London SW1A 1HG
Tel: 020 7830 7000

Rue de l'Athénée 32
1206 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: 41 22 566 2470

750 3rd Avenue, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10017
Tel: 1 212 541 0500

60/F Central Plaza
18 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tel: 852 2585 3888

Other commercial offices:
Chicago, Dubai, Frankfurt, Los Angeles,
Paris, San Francisco and Singapore

Subscription service

For our full range of subscription offers, including digital only or print and digital combined, visit Economist.com/offers or call the telephone number provided below. Telephone: +44 (0) 1444 475 647 or +44 845 120 0983

Subscription for 1 year (51 issues)

Print only	
Euro-zone countries	€188
Denmark	DKr 1,399
Hungary	HUF 58,107
Norway	Nkr 1,379
Poland	PLN 809
Sweden	SKr 1,636
Switzerland	Sfr 255
Other Europe (ex UK)	€189
Middle East—GCC	US\$347
South Africa	Rand 1,700
Middle East and Africa	US\$280



PEFC certified

This copy of *The Economist* is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed forests certified by PEFC
www.pefc.org

