



**On the cover**  
 The huge cost of poor land use in the world's greatest cities, and what to do about it: leader, page 9. Land, the centre of the pre-industrial economy, has returned as a constraint on growth, pages 18-20

**The Economist online**

Daily analysis and opinion to supplement the print edition, plus audio and video, and a daily chart. [Economist.com](http://Economist.com)

**E-mail:** newsletters and mobile edition  
[Economist.com/email](http://Economist.com/email)

**Print edition:** available online by 7pm London time each Thursday  
[Economist.com/print](http://Economist.com/print)

**Audio edition:** available online to download each Friday  
[Economist.com/audioedition](http://Economist.com/audioedition)

**The Economist**

Volume 415 Number 8932

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:** Atlanta, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Cairo, Chicago, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Lima, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Moscow, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington DC

**7 The world this week**

**Leaders**

- 9 **Urban land**  
Space and the city
- 10 **Nigeria's election**  
Three cheers for democracy
- 10 **Prenatal care**  
Great expectations
- 11 **British foreign policy**  
Punch and duty
- 12 **Special economic zones**  
Not so special

**Letters**

- 14 **On Latin America, Russia, Japan, deep learning, companies, the budget**

**Briefing**

- 18 **Land-shackled economies**  
The paradox of soil

**Europe**

- 21 **Germany's logjam**  
An uncomfortable arrangement
- 22 **Minorities in France**  
An edgy inquiry
- 22 **Spanish politics**  
The old and the new
- 23 **Russia's recent past**  
Nemtsov Bridge
- 24 **An angry Dutch mood**  
A low-spirited country
- 25 **Charlemagne**  
Europeans' privacy fears

**Britain**

- 26 **Projecting power**  
Little Britain
- 28 **Hague departs**  
William, it was really nothing
- 29 **Bagehot**  
Scaring voters, not impressing them

**Middle East and Africa**

- 30 **Nigeria's election**  
Hail to the voters
- 31 **The Iran talks**  
Going to the wire
- 32 **Saudi Arabia**  
Decisive or rash?
- 32 **Yemen**  
The old man who lingers
- 33 **Syria's civil war**  
Assad on the back foot
- 34 **Politics in Somalia**  
Loth to admit failure
- 34 **South African history**  
Hit the Rhodes, Cecil

**United States**

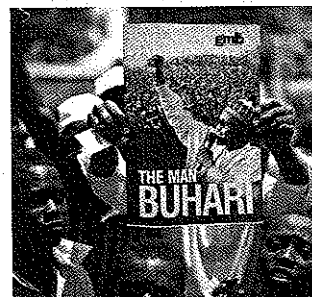
- 35 **The Confederacy**  
The present past
- 36 **The South's economy**  
They wish they were in Dixie
- 38 **Delaware's economy**  
Falling in the First
- 38 **Dating apps**  
Less choice, please
- 39 **Indiana politics**  
Religious freedom v gay rights
- 39 **Harry Reid**  
The slugger of the Senate retires
- 40 **Lexington**  
Why the gun lobby is winning

**The Americas**

- 41 **Venezuela**  
Maduro's muzzle
- 42 **Bullfighting**  
Matadors on the march
- 42 **Peru's government**  
The fall of Ana Jara
- 43 **Bello**  
The neglected art of biography



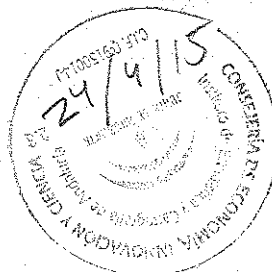
**Dealing with Iran** What is needed for a nuclear settlement, page 31. The impact on Iran's oil industry, page 56



**Nigeria** Muhammadu Buhari wins a watershed election. May he rise to his task: leader, page 10. The ousting of an incumbent president marks a hopeful step for democracy, page 30. Nigeria's struggling economy, page 63



**Little Britain** A shrinking player on the global stage: leader, page 11. When allies look at Britain, they see—and lament—a country that is turning inward, page 26. In the longer term, Britain's discomfort with the EU may turn out to be a bigger risk than Greece's exit from the euro, page 70



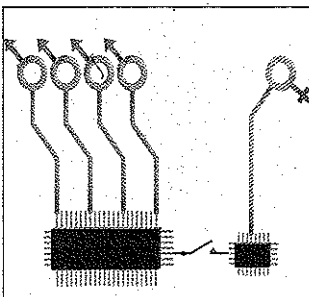


### Prenatal health

Why policymakers should pay more attention to pregnant women: leader, page 10. A child's long-term well-being is more profoundly shaped by influences in utero than used to be realised, page 51. Some expectant mothers struggle to quit smoking. What can help? Page 52



**Microsoft at 40** The once-dominant software giant tries to reinvent itself, page 53. Mexico's nascent tech hub, page 55



### Sexism in Silicon Valley

Tech firms can banish sexism without sacrificing the culture that made them successful: Schumpeter, page 58

- Asia**
- 44 **Malaysian politics**  
Riding a tiger
  - 45 **Ethnic minorities in Vietnam**  
Out of sight
  - 46 **Elections in Central Asia**  
No choice
  - 47 **Japan's working poor**  
Struggling
  - 48 **Banyan**  
Asia's retiring strongmen

- China**
- 49 **Poverty in China**  
Just a little bit richer
  - 50 **The internet**  
Great walls of fire
  - 50 **Stolen artefacts**  
Relics of plunder

- International**
- 51 **Prenatal health and life**  
Unequal beginnings
  - 52 **Smoking in pregnancy**  
Huffing and puffing

- Business**
- 53 **Microsoft at middle age**  
Opening Windows
  - 55 **Steel in China**  
Twin peaks
  - 55 **Startups in Mexico**  
Techs-Mex
  - 56 **Iran's oil**  
Rusty taps
  - 57 **Tyremaking in India**  
Apollo's mission
  - 58 **Schumpeter**  
Valley of the dudes

- Finance and economics**
- 59 **Special economic zones**  
Political priority, economic gamble
  - 60 **Buttonwood**  
Jitters on Wall Street
  - 61 **Investing in art**  
A study in red and black
  - 61 **German property**  
Braking bad

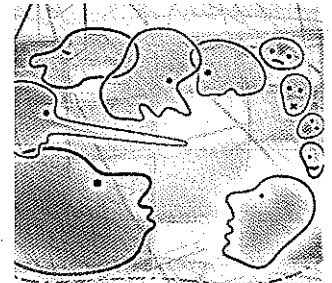
- 62 **Corruption in Brazil**  
Taxmen on the take
- 63 **Nigeria's economy**  
To the victor the toils
- 63 **Greece and its creditors**  
Starting to list
- 64 **Free exchange**  
Making meetings work

- Science and technology**
- 65 **Exploration (1)**  
Wiring the world below
  - 66 **Exploration (2)**  
The worlds beyond
  - 67 **Powering space travel**  
NASA's dark materials
  - 68 **Emergency medicine**  
Someone to hold your hand
  - 68 **An ancient mother**  
Cretaceous insects

- Books and arts**
- 69 **Becoming Steve Jobs**  
Jobs 2.0
  - 70 **Britain and the EU**  
The Brexit dilemma
  - 70 **Flash fiction**  
Super-short short stories
  - 71 **Life and friendship**  
Time it was
  - 72 **Collecting personal data**  
Uses and abuses

- 76 **Economic and financial indicators**  
Statistics on 42 economies, plus a closer look at crowdfunding

- Obituary**
- 78 **Sashimi Devi**  
A marriage made in heaven



**How to make meetings work**  
Committees are full of biases. New research hints at ways of making meetings more effective: Free exchange, page 64

### 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) or call the telephone number provided below. Telephone: +44 (0) 845 120 0983 or +44 (0) 207 576 8448

Subscription for 1 year (51 issues)	
Print only	
<b>Euro-zone countries</b>	
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)	€188
Middle East - GCC	US\$347, £243
South Africa	Rand 1,700, US\$175, £120
Middle East and Africa	US\$280, £196

### 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



PEFC certified

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

