

The Economist

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Can the Trump boom last?

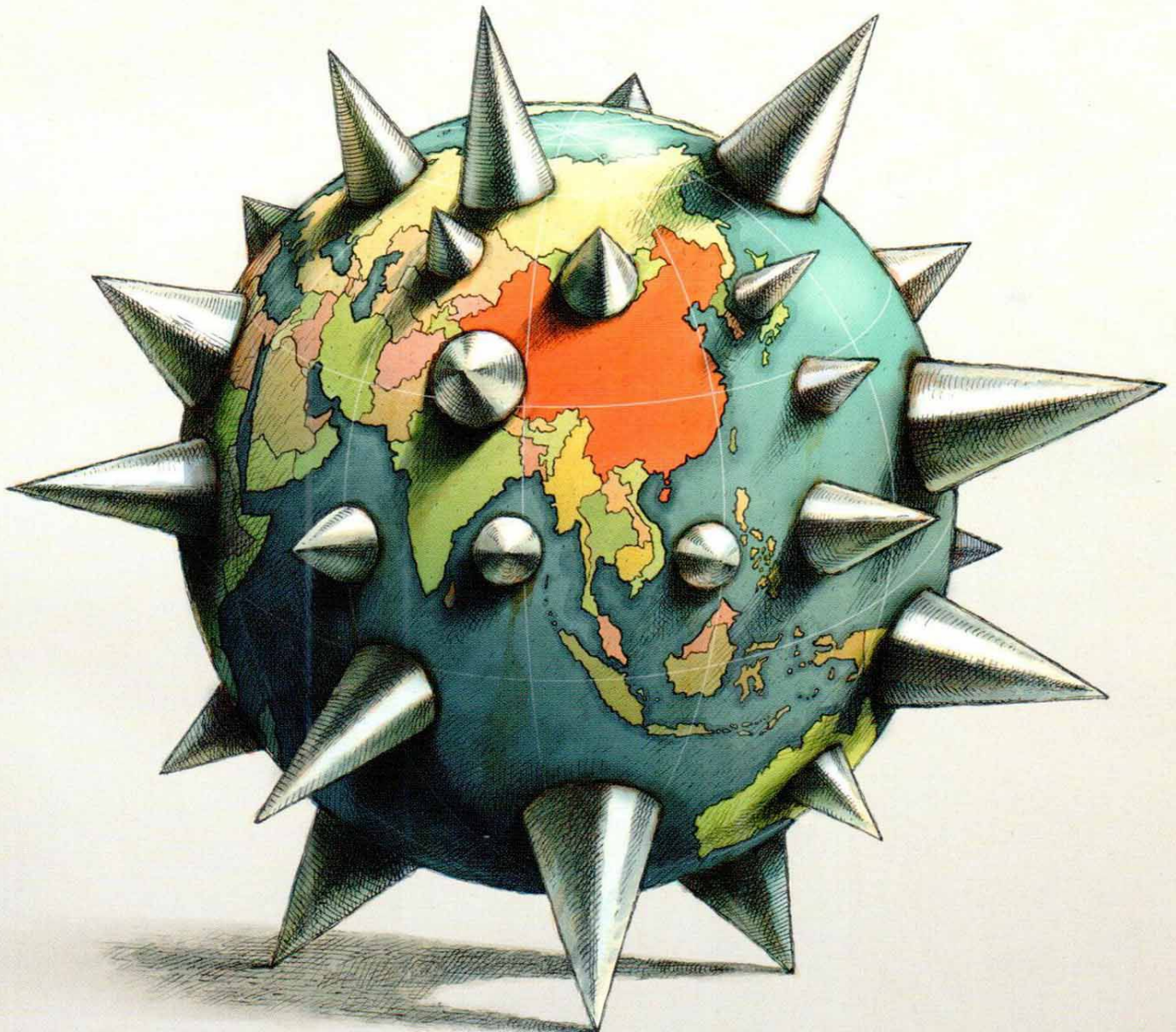
Slaughterbots: rise of the military robot

A kinder, gentler Uzbekistan

Adieu to the French Elvis

Sharp power

The new shape of Chinese influence



Australia.....	AS12(Inc.GST)	Hong Kong.....	HK\$90	Korea.....	Won 12,000	New Zealand.....	NZ\$15.00	Sri Lanka.....	Rs1,200
Bangladesh.....	TK550	India.....	₹350	Malaysia.....	RM30 (Inc GST)	Pakistan.....	Rs800	Taiwan.....	NT\$275
Cambodia.....	US\$8.00	Indonesia.....	Rp90,000	Myanmar.....	US\$8.00	Philippines.....	Pesos450	Thailand.....	Baht 300
China.....	RMB 80	Japan.....	¥1,259+Tax	Nepal.....	NR700	Singapore..	S\$13.50 (Inc.GST)	Vietnam.....	US\$8.00



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Alabama's election

A prosecutor of Klansmen captures Jeff Sessions's old seat and the Republican Senate majority shrinks to one, page 29



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Uzbekistan An Uzbek spring has sprung, but summer is still a long way off, page 21

Politics



The Democrats' Doug Jones won an election for a Senate seat in **Alabama**, a stunning upset for the Republicans in a state that Donald Trump carried in last year's presidential race by almost 30 percentage points. Roy Moore, the Republican candidate, had a record of courting controversy long before he faced allegations of courting and harassing teenagers. Mr Trump tweeted that he always knew Mr Moore could not win (having campaigned for him).

The Republicans made progress in reconciling the House and Senate versions of the **tax bill**. One of the remaining sticking points is making sure the legislation does not contravene the Senate's Byrd rule, which does not allow "extraneous" spending to add to the deficit beyond a decade. The party wants to get the bill on Mr Trump's desk so that he can sign it before Christmas.

A pipebomb partially exploded in a walkway between the Times Square and Port Authority subway stations in **New York**, injuring three people and disrupting the city's morning rush hour. A 27-year-old Bangladeshi immigrant was charged with terrorist offences.

Transgender people will be allowed to enlist in America's armed forces from January 1st, after a judge refused the administration's request to delay the date while it figures out how to implement Mr Trump's order to ban them from serving. The Pentagon said it would comply with the judge's order.

A crisis in the making

Security forces in **Honduras** tried to clear the streets of barricades set up by supporters of presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla. More than two weeks after the election, no winner has been firmly established, though authorities say the incumbent, Juan Orlando Hernández, won the most votes. Mr Nasralla wants the election to be annulled on grounds of fraud.

The United States and **Venezuela** traded harsh words after President Nicolás Maduro said parties that boycotted this month's mayoral elections would be banned from future elections. A ruling-party bigwig said this reflected the government's belief in multi-party democracy.

Paying with their lives

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** 14 UN peacekeepers were killed in an attack on their base by jihadists called the Allied Democratic Forces. The attack added an Islamist twist to a conflict that has long been about looting minerals.

Two courts ruled against Jacob Zuma, the president of **South Africa**, just days ahead of a conference of the ruling African National Congress to select his successor as party leader. One court ordered him to allow an independent judicial review into allegations of "state capture" in which he is accused of appointing cabinet ministers at the behest of people with whom his family has business interests. Another court ordered that he personally pay costs associated with his efforts to prevent an anti-corruption ombudsman from releasing a report in which these allegations were made.

Saudi Arabia lifted a 35-year-old ban on cinemas. The crown prince, Muhammad bin Salman, is trying to make the kingdom less puritanical. The first theatres could begin showing films early next year.

While visiting **Syria**, Vladimir Putin said he would start withdrawing troops from the

country. The Russian air force has been bombing rebels and jihadists in Syria for more than two years, propping up the blood-soaked regime of Bashar al-Assad.

The Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, comprising 57 Muslim countries, called on the world to recognise **East Jerusalem** as the capital of a Palestinian state. It said that Donald Trump's decision to recognise the city as Israel's capital disqualified America from playing a role in the Middle East peace process.

A political chasm

China closed the bridge linking the city of Dandong to **North Korea**, across which much of North Korea's trade with the outside world flows. The closure was ostensibly for repairs, but some observers thought China was surreptitiously pressing North Korea to curb its nuclear programme.



Partial results suggested a coalition of communist parties had won **Nepal's** first parliamentary election since 1999 in a landslide.

Sam Dastyari, an embattled **Australian** senator, resigned from parliament after a series of revelations concerning his dealings with a businessman thought to be close to the Chinese government.

The **Philippine** congress extended martial law in the southern island of Mindanao for a year, to allow the army greater freedom to pursue its campaign against Muslim extremists.

The **European Union** and **Japan** agreed to a free-trade deal, which will cover a com-

bined population of 600m people. Japan will slice tariffs on imports of European cheeses, meat and wine and the EU will do the same to duties on Japanese cars. Meanwhile, Japan and the EU joined America in forming an alliance to "eliminate...unfair market distorting and protectionist practices", which is aimed squarely at China.

The end of the beginning

Theresa May, Britain's prime minister, at last managed to get provisional approval for phase one of a **Brexit** deal from the European Union covering citizenship rights, the divorce bill and the Irish border. She received a rapturous reception from Conservative MPs when she returned to the Commons, but that soon changed when 11 Tory rebels joined the opposition to pass an amendment insisting that Parliament have a vote on the final deal. Many issues remain unresolved. On the all-important trading relationship, all options other than EU membership would leave Britain poorer.

Poland has a new prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, who will also retain his post as finance minister. Some hope he can defuse the tension between the EU and Poland over Poland's erosion of the rule of law, but that seems unlikely given that parliament this week approved bills that increase the government's powers over the judiciary.



More than a million people lined the streets of Paris for the funeral of **Johnny Hallyday**, the French answer to Elvis. "He was a lot more than a singer, he was life," Emmanuel Macron, the president, declared in his eulogy.