

TIME

ROGER FEDERER

By Bill Gates

NICOLE KIDMAN

By Naomi Watts

TARANA BURKE

By Gabrielle Union

EMMANUEL MACRON

By Christine Lagarde

RIHANNA

By Adele

PARKLAND STUDENTS

By Barack Obama

THE
100
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INFLUENTIAL
PEOPLE



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FROM THE EDITOR

The 2018 TIME 100

ONE OF THE MOST STIRRING MOMENTS in this year's billion-dollar blockbuster *Black Panther*, whose director, Ryan Coogler, and lead actor, Chadwick Boseman, are both on this year's TIME 100, comes early in the film. A terrorist attack has upended the kingdom of Wakanda. As Boseman's T'Challa returns to take the throne, his mother, played by Angela Bassett, reassures him, "My son, it is your time."

TIME's annual list of the world's most influential people is a designation of individuals whose time, in our estimation, is now. The TIME 100 isn't a measure of power, though many on the list wield it. Nor is it a collection of milestones accumulated. As our staff considers candidates, we often find ourselves wowed by those with stunning lifetime achievements. But editorial director Dan Macsai, maestro of the TIME 100, brings us back to the key question: Was *this* their year?

This has been a year like few others in the two decades since the TIME 100 began. Citing the White House's more hostile posture toward China, North Korea and Iran, Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and a contributor to this issue, has called this "the most perilous moment in modern American history." Amid a decided global tilt toward authoritarianism, the same could be said for much of the rest of the world. Accordingly, the 2018 TIME 100 recognizes leaders ranging from Donald Trump to Kim Jong Un—of whom the writer we chose, North Korean defector Hyeonseo Lee, calls "the most dangerous person on the planet."

In other ways, the TIME 100, always a reflection of its moment, looks quite different than in the past. Influence increasingly knows no single zip code and no minimum age. A record 45 people on this list are under 40—including the youngest designee ever, 14-year-old actor Millie Bobby Brown—and a common theme in the tributes is how much we can learn from them. As Steven Spielberg writes of his regard



for Greta Gerwig, the Oscar-nominated director of *Lady Bird*, "Her elder becomes her student."

Barack Obama, who has said that his greatest frustration as President was the failure of commonsense gun-safety laws, draws inspiration from the Parkland, Fla., teenagers who organized the March for Our Lives: "They have the power ... to reject the old constraints, outdated conventions and cowardice too often dressed up as wisdom."

STILL, THE ELDER-AS-TEACHER remains a powerful theme. "Auntie Maxine"—as actor and incoming Harvard student Yara Shahidi calls Congresswoman Maxine Waters—"has made my generation proud to be nieces and nephews." Comedian Tiffany Haddish, making her first appearance on the TIME 100, describes how Oprah Winfrey, making her ninth appearance, rose up from an unimaginably rough childhood. "She made her dreams come true," Haddish writes. "And because I watched her, I did too." Cher, in her tribute to groundbreaking Olympian Adam Rippon, regrets that when she was young, "I had no role models—everyone looked like Sandra Dee and Doris Day." Seeing success in someone who looks like you, thinks like you, grew up like you can change the course of a life.

While we remain much too far from

gender parity in global leadership, there are more women than ever on this year's TIME 100—proof that there are ways of changing the world beyond traditional power structures. Among the 45 we recognize: activist Tarana Burke, who founded Me Too; Jennifer Lopez, Issa Rae, Nicole Kidman and Lena Waithe, who took control of their narratives, both on and off screen; Nice Nailante Leng'ete, who has worked to end female genital mutilation and championed girls' education in Kenya; Chloe Kim, who's shredding barriers in snowboarding; and astronaut Peggy Whitson, who recently logged her 665th cumulative day in space—more than any other American.

"In a world that too often tells women to stay small, keep quiet," as Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg writes in her tribute to Jacinda Ardern—New Zealand's new Prime Minister and, at 37, the youngest female head of government on the planet—these women are leading out loud, and inspiring others to do the same.

Edward

Edward Felsenthal,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
@EFELSENTHAL

Reader's choice

In advance of this special issue curated by TIME's editors, we asked readers to weigh in on who they thought should make the list. Here are their top three choices, by percentage of poll votes received:

17%



BTS
SOUTH KOREAN
POP BAND

5%



MOON JAE-IN
PRESIDENT OF
SOUTH KOREA

3%



BARACK OBAMA
FORMER U.S.
PRESIDENT



BEHIND THE SCENES Above, Peter Hapak photographs Nicole Kidman. Below, the issue comes together with, from right, TIME 100 editorial director Dan Macsai and international art director Victor Williams, standing, and photo editor Dilys Ng and assistant art director Jennifer Prandato, seated. Not pictured, David Kofahl and Tim Klimowicz, who were hard at work building the TIME 100 site.



NOW STREAMING

This year, the TIME 100 comes with a soundtrack. Throughout the issue, you'll learn what inspires the world's most influential people—and you can hear their musical inspirations (including Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On," selected by U.S. Representative Maxine Waters) on a special Spotify playlist. Listen at spoti.fi/time100

The TIME 100 culminates on April 24 at the TIME 100 Gala. Stay tuned to TIME.com and our social channels to see inside the epic event. Special thanks to our sponsors Airtable, Citi, Jane Walker by Johnnie Walker and Victor.

Letters should include the writer's full name, address and home telephone and may be edited for purposes of clarity and space

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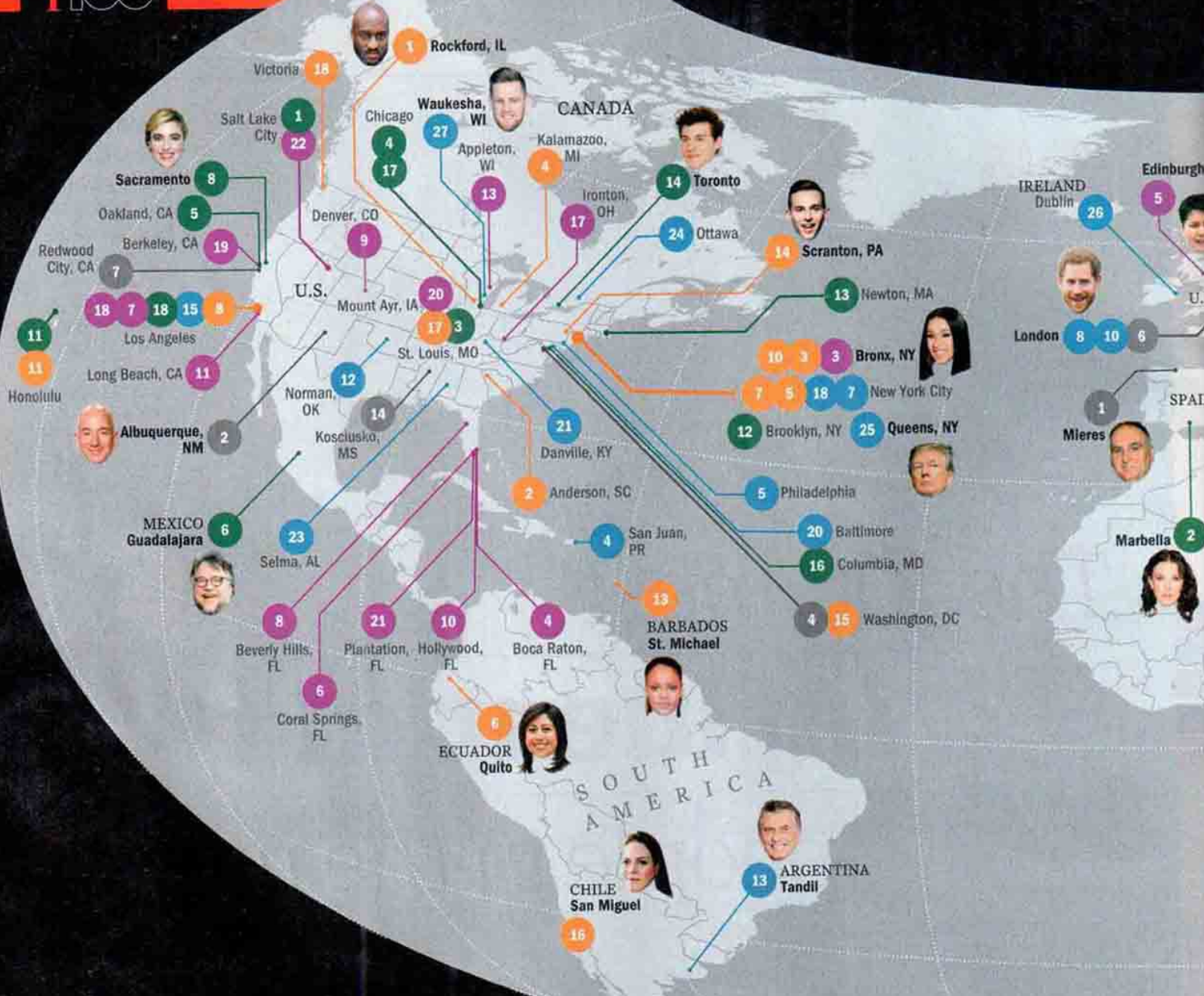


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The 100 most

influential

people in the world



Points of Origin

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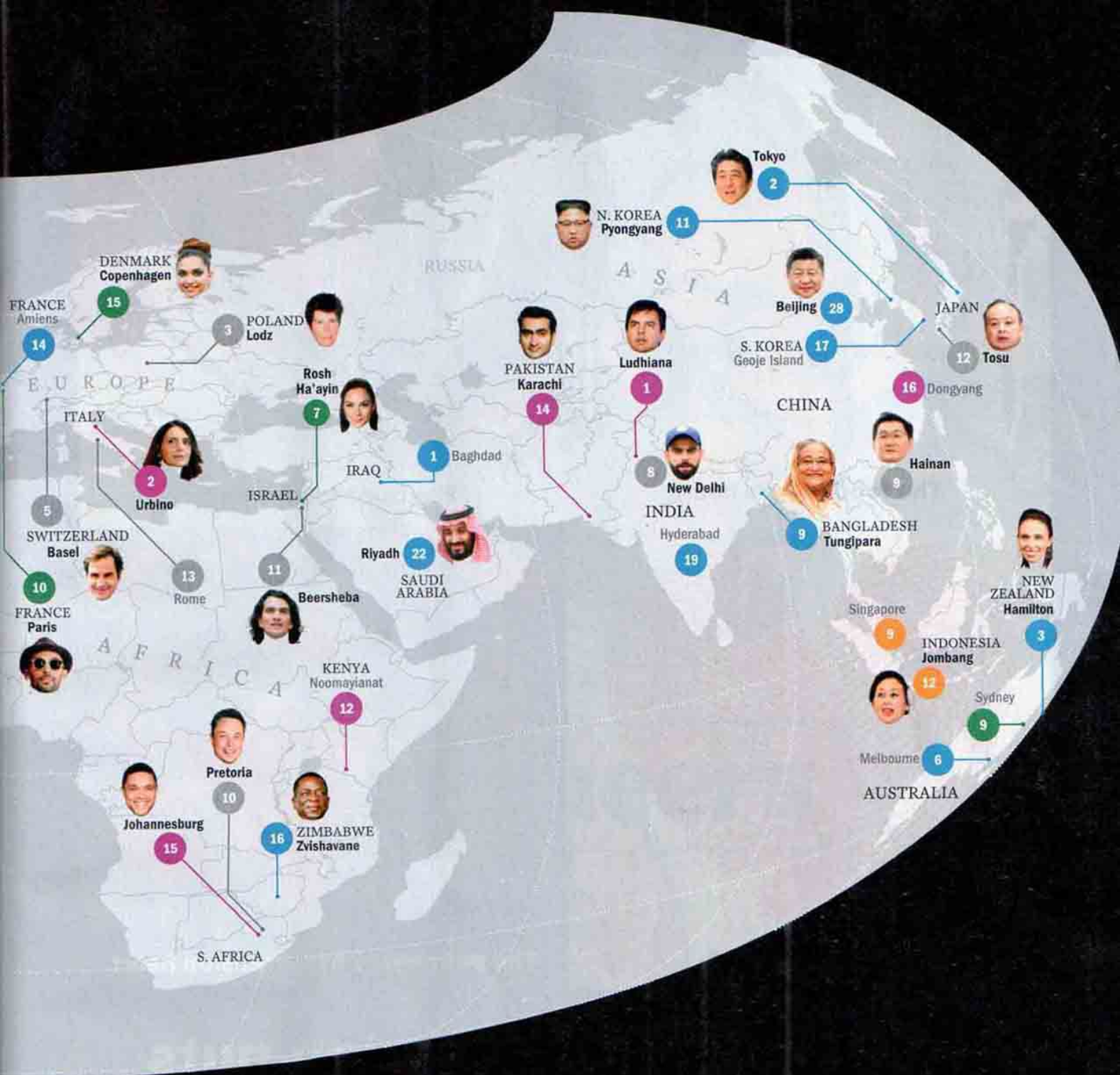
BY MERRILL FABRY

pioneers

- | | | |
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| 1 BHAVISH AGGARWAL | 8 DAVID HOGG | 16 JIAN-WEI PAN |
| 2 MARICA BRANCHESI | 9 CARL JUNE | 17 JAN RADER |
| 3 CARDI B | 10 CAMERON KASKY | 18 ISSA RAE |
| 4 JACLYN CORIN | 11 CHLOE KIM | 19 JESMYN WARD |
| 5 RUTH DAVIDSON | 12 NICE NAILANTEI LENG'ETE | 20 PEGGY WHITSON |
| 6 EMMA GONZÁLEZ | 13 ANN MCKEE | 21 ALEX WIND |
| 7 TIFFANY HADDISH | 14 KUMAIL NANJIANI | 22 WHITNEY WOLFE HERD |
| | 15 TREVOR NOAH | |

leaders

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 HAIDER AL-ABADI | 11 KIM JONG UN | 21 SCOTT PRUITT |
| 2 SHINZO ABE | 12 HODA KOTB | CROWN PRINCE |
| 3 JACINDA ARDERN | 13 MAURICIO MACRI | 22 MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN |
| 4 CARMEN YULÍN CRUZ | 14 EMMANUEL MACRON | 23 JEFF SESSIONS |
| 5 KENNETH C. FRAZIER | 15 MEGHAN MARKLE | 24 JUSTIN TRUDEAU |
| 6 SAVANNAH GUTHRIE | 16 EMMERSON MNANGAGWA | 25 DONALD TRUMP |
| 7 SEAN HANNITY | 17 MOON JAE-IN | 26 LEO VARADKAR |
| 8 PRINCE HARRY | 18 ROBERT MUELLER | 27 J.J. WATT |
| 9 SHEIKH HASINA | 19 SATYA NADELLA | 28 XI JINPING |
| 10 SADIQ KHAN | 20 NANCY PELOSI | |



artists

- 1 ROSEANNE BARR
- 2 MILLIE BOBBY BROWN
- 3 STERLING K. BROWN
- 4 JUDY CHICAGO
- 5 RYAN COOGLER
- 6 GUILLERMO DEL TORO
- 7 GAL GADOT
- 8 GRETA GERWIG
- 9 HUGH JACKMAN
- 10 JR
- 11 NICOLE KIDMAN
- 12 JIMMY KIMMEL
- 13 JOHN KRASINSKI
- 14 SHAWN MENDES
- 15 DEEPIKA PADUKONE
- 16 CHRISTIAN SIRIANO
- 17 LENA WAITHE
- 18 KEHINDE WILEY

titans

- 1 JOSÉ ANDRÉS
- 2 JEFF BEZOS
- 3 ELIZABETH DILLER
- 4 KEVIN DURANT
- 5 ROGER FEDERER
- 6 SONIA FRIEDMAN
- 7 CINDY HOLLAND
- 8 VIRAT KOHLI
- 9 PONY MA
- 10 ELON MUSK
- 11 ADAM NEUMANN
- 12 MASAYOSHI SON
- 13 GIULIANO TESTA
- 14 OPRAH WINFREY

icons

- 1 VIRGIL ABLOH
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- 3 TARANA BURKE
- 4 RACHAEL DENHOLLANDER
- 5 RONAN FARROW
- 6 CRISTINA JIMÉNEZ
- 7 JODI KANTOR
- 8 KESHA
- 9 KEVIN KWAN
- 10 JENNIFER LOPEZ
- 11 JANET MOCK
- 12 SINTA NURIYAH
- 13 RIHANNA
- 14 ADAM RIPPON
- 15 MEGAN TWOHEY
- 16 DANIELA VEGA
- 17 MAXINE WATERS
- 18 CHRISTOPHER WYLIE