

# The Economist

---

Is generative AI built on theft?

---

How to counter Iran

---

Musk v Brazil's supreme court

---

Shrinking America

---

APRIL 20TH-26TH 2024

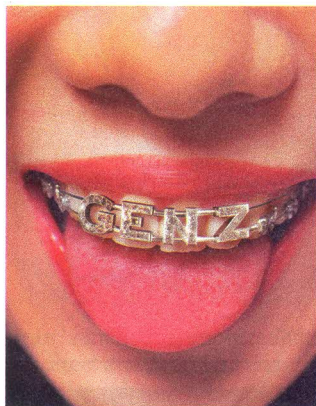
---



**Reasons to be cheerful**

NEG-4

# Contents



### On the cover

Reasons to be cheerful about the young: leader, page 9. The world economy has been kind to Generation Z, page 57. Demands grow to restrict young people's access to phones and social media, page 67. Our number-crunching shows that the plight of graduates in China is much worse than previously thought, page 32

### Is generative AI built on theft?

Lawyers v large language models, page 51. Moving beyond today's LLMs will require some fundamental breakthroughs, page 64

### How to counter Iran

Israel should try a novel tactic to respond to Iran's missile attack: restraint: leader, page 10. An old conflict enters a new phase, page 36. Iranians fear their brittle regime will drag them into war, page 37

### Musk v Brazil's supreme court

Elon Musk's latest feud, page 25

**Shrinking America** Much of America is shrinking, something its system of government makes even harder than it need be: briefing, page 15

### The world this week

- 5 A summary of political and business news

### Leaders

- 9 **Generation Z**  
Better off than you think
- 10 **India's opposition**  
Not fit for purpose
- 10 **Israel and Iran**  
Don't rush to retaliate
- 11 **Conscription**  
First, raise soldiers' pay
- 12 **Monetary policy**  
The second Powell pivot

### Letters

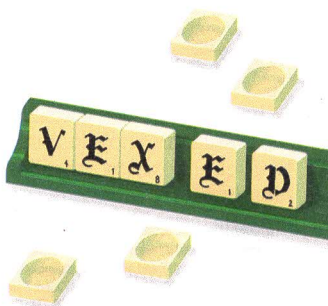
- 14 On China, WEIRD countries, nuclear weapons, software engineers, banlieues, uniforms

### Briefing

- 15 **Shrinking America**  
Emptying and fuming



**Bartleby** How to combine heritage and innovation, page 54



→ The digital element of your subscription means that you can search our archive, read all of our daily journalism and listen to audio versions of our stories. Visit [economist.com](http://economist.com)

### United States

- 19 Trump's trial begins
- 20 Busted trust
- 21 Tents in cities
- 21 Bribing voters
- 22 Touching fentanyl
- 23 Patentsville
- 24 **Lexington** A Trumpian triumph



### The Americas

- 25 Brazil's mighty supreme court
- 26 Canadian maple syrup
- 27 Why Ecuador stormed Mexico's embassy



### Asia

- 28 The last Gandhi?
- 30 China v the Philippines
- 30 Japanese journalism
- 31 **Banyan** Singapore's PM



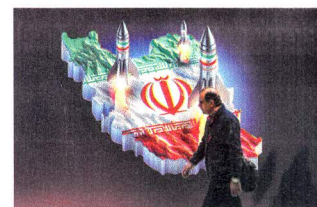
### China

- 32 The plight of graduates
- 33 A message for Taiwan
- 34 Frustrating poplar fluff
- 35 **Chaguan** The coming wave of Alzheimer's



### Middle East & Africa

- 36 Iran's attack on Israel
- 37 Iranian hardliners
- 38 Israel's dilemma with Iran
- 39 Catastrophe in Sudan
- 40 Tanzania's hobbled opposition



# Contents

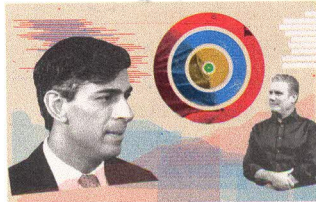
## Europe

- 41 Germany's failing schools
- 42 China and Germany
- 43 Macron the hawk
- 43 Waiting for the Russians
- 44 Ukraine's drones
- 45 **Charlemagne** Repressing right-wingers



## Britain

- 46 Election predictions
- 47 Tactical voting
- 48 **Bagehot** Madness and mayors



## International

- 49 The rights and wrongs of conscription



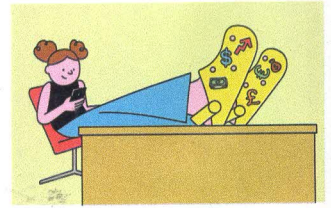
## Business

- 51 AI and copyright
- 53 LVMH's pups in cashmere
- 54 **Bartleby** Lessons of woke Scrabble
- 55 Insecure Chinese biotech
- 56 **Schumpeter** Epistolary CEOs



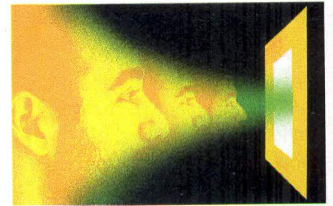
## Finance & economics

- 57 Generation Z
- 59 **Buttonwood** Smaller stockmarkets
- 60 China's growth
- 60 Russian assets
- 61 Pricey petrol
- 62 Citigroup's turnaround
- 63 **Free exchange** How to solve debt crises



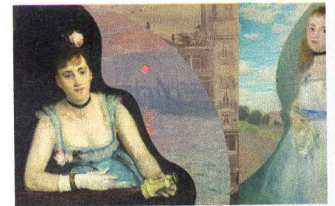
## Science & technology

- 64 AI's next top model
- 66 Locust control
- 67 Smartphones and anxiety



## Culture

- 68 Impressionism turns 150
- 69 Video-game adaptations
- 70 Crossword puzzles
- 70 Climbing Everest
- 71 The first world war, re-examined
- 72 **Back Story** Salman Rushdie's "Knife"



## Economic & financial indicators

- 73 Statistics on 42 economies

## Obituary

- 74 Akebono, the first foreign-born sumo champion

Volume 451 Number 9393

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, Chicago, Dakar, Dallas, Dubai, Johannesburg, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow, Mumbai, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington DC

### Subscription service

For our full range of subscription offers, including digital only or print and digital bundled, visit: [Economist.com/offers](http://Economist.com/offers)

If you are experiencing problems when trying to subscribe, please visit our Help pages at: [www.economist.com/help](http://www.economist.com/help) for troubleshooting advice.

To manage your account online, please visit [my.economist.com](http://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:

North America: +1 888 815 0215  
Latin America & Mexico: +1 646 248 5983



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)