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# WORLD AND PRESS



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| PHOTO: New York Times

**The Houston rodeo,**  
the world's largest rodeo and  
livestock show, is the Super Bowl of  
country culture. For participants,  
the annual event is serious business.

READ MORE ON PAGE 5

**According to scientists,**  
tea may provide a surprising health  
benefit: The stimulating beverage  
could be removing dangerous  
contaminants from water.

READ MORE ON PAGE 14



| PHOTO: Getty Images

## Mark Carney swept Canada, but there will be no honeymoon

**ELECTION** | The Canadian prime minister achieved a stunning political upset, running on an anti-Trump platform and promising to revive the economy.

BY MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF  
IN OTTAWA

1 CANADA'S banker-turned-prime-minister pulled off a political miracle, leading his party from polling abyss to a rare fourth term in power, and securing the top government job after entering electoral politics just three months ago. Mark Carney, the country's new leader, told Canadians that he was the right person to stand up to President Donald Trump and that, with his economics expertise, he knew how to boost the country's lackluster economy and fortify it in turbulent times.

2 Now he has to actually do all of that, and quickly, as his country moves from a prolonged period of political turmoil and faces the fallout of a trade war with its closest ally and economic partner: the United States.

3 When Carney's predecessor, Justin Trudeau, announced in January that he would resign after ten years leading Canada, he created a rare opportunity that Carney jumped at. But after Carney won the race to replace Trudeau in March as prime minister and leader of the Liberal Party, he also inherited a messy situation at home that he must now urgently take on.

4 The Canadian Parliament has



**Canadian Prime Minister** and Liberal Party Leader Mark Carney speaks to supporters after his election win. | PHOTO: Blair Gable/Reuters/Picture Alliance

not been in session since before Christmas, after Trudeau suspended its activities to be able to hold the Liberal leadership election that elevated Carney. As a result, the country has been in a state of political instability for months, with no ability to pursue

a legislative agenda. And Carney doesn't yet have his own Cabinet — he made small changes to the one he inherited from Trudeau, but he is likely to put his personal stamp on the government by choosing top ministers now that he's won the national elections.

5 What's more, the Liberals did not manage to clinch a majority of seats in the House of Commons and will need to court three members from smaller parties to get their policies passed in the 343-seat chamber. Carney will need to move swiftly to win the necessary parliamentary allies and ensure the stability of his party while keeping it from becoming vulnerable to collapsing through a vote of no confidence, which would trigger new elections.

6 "The first order of business is getting a Cabinet and getting Parliament back as soon as possible," said Matthew Holmes, a senior executive at the Canadian Chambers of Commerce, which represents business interests. "We need to see the prime minister come in and quickly move into lawmaking," Holmes said. "There is no honeymoon for this prime minister."

7 A key pitch to Canadians that worked in Carney's favor at the ballot box was that he was exactly the right leader to navigate the reordering of global trade and security prompted by Trump. Carney's past experience leading major institutions through upheaval, including the Bank of England through Brexit, were key in convincing many Canadians who backed him that his credentials were aligned for the challenges Canada faces.

*Continued on page 12*

**0-1** TO SWEEP ... (fig) die Wahl in ... haushoch gewinnen — **honeymoon** (fig) Schonzeit — **upset** Überraschungserfolg — **to run** kandidieren; antraten — **platform** Parteiprogramm — **to pull off** zustande bringen — **polling abyss** Umfragetief (a. Abgrund) — **term** Amtszeit — **electoral** Wahl — **to stand up to** s.o. jdm. die Stirn bieten — **lackluster** glanzlos; h.: schleppend — **to fortify** stärken

**2-3** **prolonged** anhaltend — **turmoil** Turbulenzen — **fallout** Folgen — **ally** Verbündete(r) — **predecessor** Vorgänger(in) — **to resign** zurücktreten — **to jump at an opportunity** e-e Chance ergreifen — **to inherit** erben; übernehmen

**4-5** **to be in session** tagen — **to suspend** (vorerstgehend) aussetzen — **to elevate** (fig) ins Amt bringen; s.w.u. stilisieren zu — **to pursue** verfolgen; voranbringen — **legislative agenda** Gesetzesvorhaben — **to clinch** perfekt machen — **to court** umwerben — **to pass policies** Maßnahmen verabschieden — **chamber** Kammer — **swiftly** zügig — **vulnerable** angrifbar; anfällig — **vote of no confidence** Misstrauensvotum

**6-7** **first order of business** erster Tagesordnungspunkt — **Chamber of Commerce** Handelskammer — **lawmaking** Gesetzgebung — **key pitch** Argument; Wahlversprechen — **ballot box** Wahlurne — **to navigate** (fig) steuern; bewältigen — **to prompt** auslösen — **upheaval** Umbruch — **to back** unterstützen — **credentials** Qualifikation — **aligned for** ausgerichtet auf

## COMMENT

# The age of regret

**YOUNG PEOPLE** | Gen Z who came of age online now feel deprived of real connections. The upside is they are doing something about it.  **Exam practice**

BY GABY HINSLIFF

**1** IT'S THE love-hate relationship that defined a generation. We think we know all about teenagers and the phones to which they're so umbilically tied: sleeping with them under the pillow, panicking at the prospect of ever being denied Wi-Fi, so glued to the screen that they're oblivious to the world unfolding around them. Yet the first generation to have never really known a life without social media – the drug that primarily keeps them coming back to their phones for more – is now grown up enough to reflect on what it may have done to them, and the answers are almost enough to break your heart.

**2** Two-thirds of 16- to 24-year-olds think social media does more harm than good, and three-quarters want tougher regulation to protect younger people from it, according to polling for the New Britain Project, a thinktank founded by a former teacher, Anna McShane. Half think they spent too much time on it when they were younger, with regret highest among those who started using social media youngest. And most tellingly of all, four in five say they'd keep their own children away from it for as long as they could if they became parents. This isn't how

anyone talks about something they love, but how you look back on a relationship that was in retrospect making you miserable.

**3** Though the focus groups she conducted confirmed that parents were desperate for help weaning children off screens, what's refreshing about McShane's research is that it suggests the generations aren't as locked in combat as they sometimes feel; that increasingly, we're all on the same side. Gen Z, it turns out, don't need more lectures from their (often equally addicted) elders about getting off that bloody phone. If anything, they may have something to teach us.

**4** This Friday, parliament will vote on the Labour MP (and former teacher) Josh MacAlister's private member's bill on safer phone use, expected to be backed by the government but only after being notably watered down...

**5** Rather cheerfully, however, it seems in the meantime Gen Z are taking things into their own hands. A generation of kids who grew up online, spent lockdown in their bedrooms, and all too often started their first jobs dialling remotely into Zoom meetings, now seems to be actively trying to teach itself to socialise the analogue way.

**6** Nightclubs and gig venues from Manchester to Ibiza to Berlin have started asking punters to put stickers over their phone cameras, encouraging them not to film on the dancefloor but just to lose themselves in the moment like their parents got to do. Meanwhile an explosion of Gen Z running clubs, reading groups, in-person singles parties for people exhausted by dating apps, and "digital detox" events where phones are left outside the door, reflect a palpable and touching new hunger for old-fashioned face-to-face connection.

**7** The 25-year-old writer Adele Zeynep Walton founded Logging Off Club, which organises real life social meet-ups for people trying to wean themselves off

their phones, after a chance conversation during a 25th birthday weekend away with friends. All of them, it turned out, were worried about their screen time and were secretly trying to cut it down, but felt self-conscious talking about it. At Logging Off Club events, she says cheerfully, "we take people's phones off them at the door and put them in a bucket". It's like ripping away a comfort blanket at first, but it makes people talk to each other rather than hiding behind a screen. At one event she organised jointly with City Daze, another social club that organises phone-free walks round London, attendees were even given cue cards to help them start conversations.

**8** What seems to be building up among younger women in particular isn't just a backlash against the kind of toxic content, bullying, or political disinformation rampant in their online lives, but a feeling that spending so much time on their phones has deprived them of something human and important. Walton is starting to think about where she might want to settle down in the next few years, only to realise that she feels curiously unrooted

from any real-life community: though she's been talking for years online to people she has never met, she doesn't even know her physical neighbours' names.

**9** Her generation has, she says, "been sold that lie of connection" by the big platforms but are finding the pseudo-communities offered there ultimately unsatisfying, leaving them wanting more. Her book about all of this, 'Logging Off', is published in June, and though it's hard to read as a parent without thinking guiltily that society has been asleep at the wheel here, there's something oddly uplifting about watching Gen Z start to try to rebuild the lives they clearly feel they've been missing...

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Hier geht's zu  
den Aufgaben dieser  
Ausgabe:



**0-1** TO COME of age erwachsen werden — to feel deprived of s.th. s. e-r S. beraubt fühlen — the upside die gute Seite — to define prägen — to be umbilically tied to s.th. h.: von etw. abhängig sein (u. wie an e-r Nabelschnur) — to be oblivious to s.th. etw. nicht wahrnehmen — to unfold s. abspielen

**2-3** to do more harm than good mehr schaden als nützen — polling Umfragen — tellingly bezeichnenderweise — in retrospect im Rückblick — to wean s.o. off s.th. jdn. von etw. entwöhnen; h.: (fig) jdn. von etw. wegbringen — generations aren't as locked in combat as ... die Fronen zw. den Generationen sind nicht so verhärtet, wie ... — lecture Belehrung — equally genauso — elders ältere Verwandte — if anything wenn überhaupt

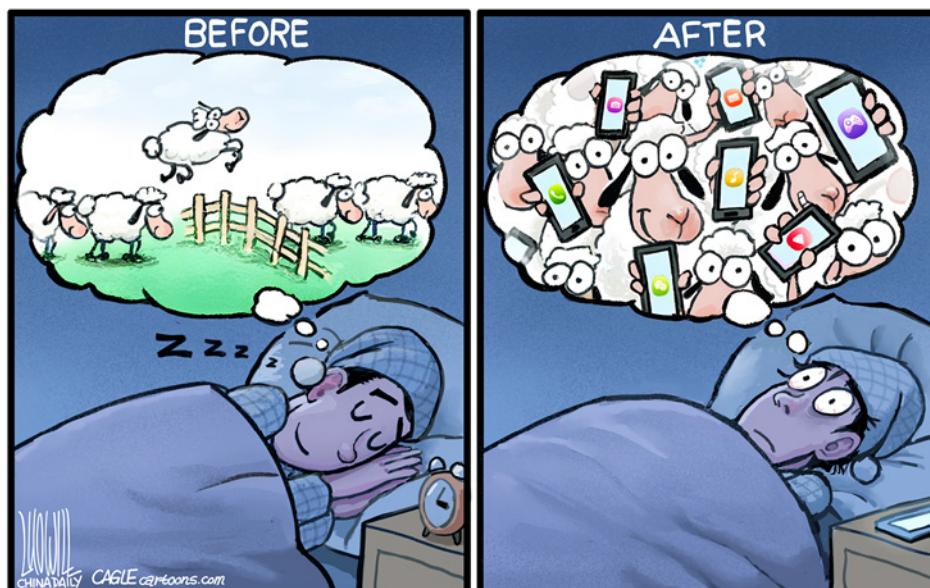
**4-5** private member's bill (BE) von einem(-r) Abgeordneten ohne Ministerposten eingebrachte Gesetzes-

initiative — to back unterstützen — notably deutlich — to water down abmildern — cheerfully erfreulicherweise — to dial remotely into h.: s. aus dem Homeoffice einwählen in — to socialise Kontakte knüpfen

**6-7** gig venue Veranstaltungsort — punter Besucher(in) — palpable spürbar — chance zufällig — self-conscious befangen; nervös — to rip away wegnehmen — comfort blanket Kuscheldecke — jointly gemeinsam — attendee Teilnehmer(in) — cue card Stichwortkarte

**8-9** backlash Gegenreaktion — bullying Mobbing — to be rampant grassieren — to settle down s. niederlassen — curiously; s.w.u. oddly auf seltsame Weise — unrooted entwurzelt — physical echt — ultimately letztlich — unsatisfying unbefriedigend — to be asleep at the wheel (fig) nicht aufpassen — uplifting rührend, optimistisch stimmend

## CARTOON



Human and Mobile Phones. | CARTOON: Luojie, China Daily, China

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# What is a vertical greenhouse?

**FOOD • BUSINESS** | This Texas farm uses less land and water to grow more produce.

BY ELIZABETH MYONG  
IN CLEBURNE, TX.

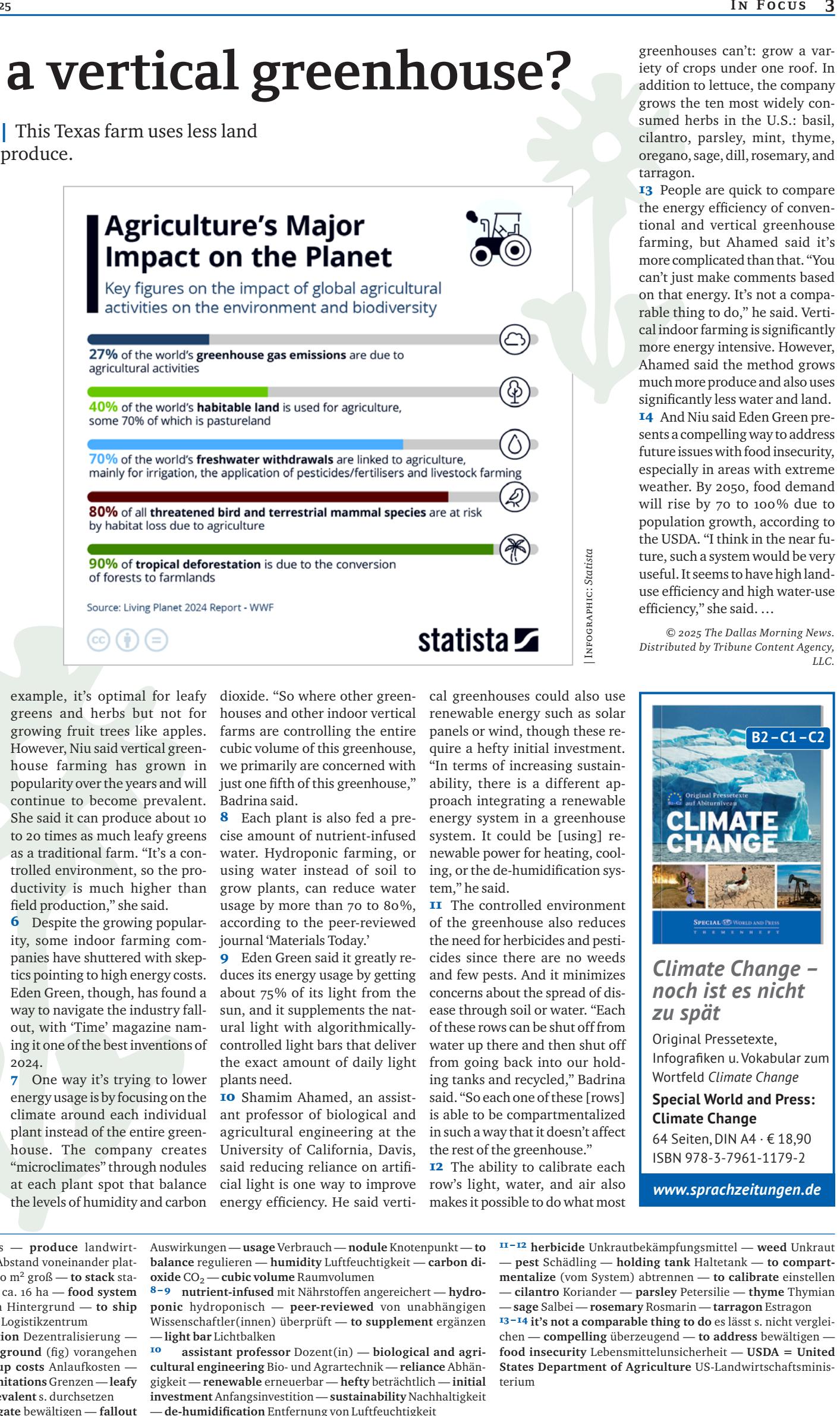
**1** WALLS OF carefully spaced herb and lettuce plants rise to the ceiling of a massive greenhouse. Inside Eden Green Technology's 62,000 square foot vertical greenhouse, over 340,000 plants are stacked 18 feet high. "We have basically shrunk 40 to 50 acres of conventional farming down into an acre and a half," said Eddy Badrina, CEO of Eden Green.

**2** Eden Green's approach to farming responds to many of the issues stressing modern-day food systems. Amid the rise of extreme weather events, its greenhouses can grow produce year-round with less land and water than traditional farming. Its approach also reduces the emissions and cost of shipping food thousands of miles. Eden Green is right next to a distribution center where it can quickly get produce to major food companies like Walmart, Sysco, and the restaurant chain CAVA.

**3** Badrina said Eden Green is part of a growing shift to produce food within the U.S. "I think you are seeing a decentralization, a deglobalization of supply chains and specifically the food supply chain," he said. "So in response to that, you can pay more for food and just keep on getting it shipped at a higher price, or you can take ground in growing more things domestically in the U.S."

**4** Critics of vertical greenhouse farming say it has steep startup costs. Eden Green has invested \$47 million into their Cleburne facility. Meanwhile, some researchers say investments in indoor farming could be better spent improving outdoor farming conditions.

**5** Genhua Niu is a Texas A&M professor of urban agriculture. A couple years ago, Eden Green emailed her with questions about their farming practices. She said there are also limitations to the types of crops that can be grown in a vertical greenhouse. For

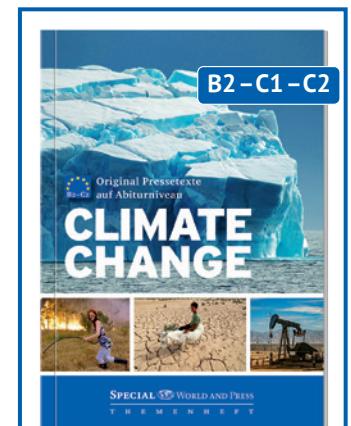


greenhouses can't: grow a variety of crops under one roof. In addition to lettuce, the company grows the ten most widely consumed herbs in the U.S.: basil, cilantro, parsley, mint, thyme, oregano, sage, dill, rosemary, and tarragon.

**13** People are quick to compare the energy efficiency of conventional and vertical greenhouse farming, but Ahamed said it's more complicated than that. "You can't just make comments based on that energy. It's not a comparable thing to do," he said. Vertical indoor farming is significantly more energy intensive. However, Ahamed said the method grows much more produce and also uses significantly less water and land.

**14** And Niu said Eden Green presents a compelling way to address future issues with food insecurity, especially in areas with extreme weather. By 2050, food demand will rise by 70 to 100% due to population growth, according to the USDA. "I think in the near future, such a system would be very useful. It seems to have high land-use efficiency and high water-use efficiency," she said. ...

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**Climate Change – noch ist es nicht zu spät**

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Wortfeld Climate Change

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**0-2** GREENHOUSE Gewächshaus — produce landwirtschaftl. Erzeugnisse — to space mit Abstand voneinander platzieren — **62,000** square foot ca. 5.760 m<sup>2</sup> groß — to stack stapeln — **18** feet ca. 5,5 m — **40** acres ca. 16 ha — food system Ernährungssystem — amid vor dem Hintergrund — to ship transportieren — **distribution center** Logistikzentrum

**3-5** shift Wandel — decentralization Dezentralisierung — supply chain Lieferkette — to take ground (fig) vorangehen — domestically im Inland — startup costs Anlaufkosten — A&M = Texas A & M University — limitations Grenzen — leafy greens Blattgemüse — to become prevalent s. durchsetzen

**6-7** to shutter schließen — to navigate bewältigen — fallout

Auswirkungen — usage Verbrauch — **nodule** Knotenpunkt — to balance regulieren — **humidity** Luftfeuchtigkeit — **carbon dioxide** CO<sub>2</sub> — **cubic volume** Raumvolumen

**8-9** nutrient-infused mit Nährstoffen angereichert — **hydroponic** hydroponisch — **peer-reviewed** von unabhängigen Wissenschaftler(innen) überprüft — to supplement ergänzen — **light bar** Lichtbalken

**10** assistant professor Dozent(in) — biological and agricultural engineering Bio- und Agrartechnik — **reliance** Abhängigkeit — **renewable** erneuerbar — **hefty** beträchtlich — **initial investment** Anfangsinvestition — **sustainability** Nachhaltigkeit — **de-humidification** Entfernung von Luftfeuchtigkeit

**11-12** **herbicide** Unkrautbekämpfungsmittel — **weed** Unkraut — **pest** Schädling — **holding tank** Haltetank — to compartmentalize (vom System) abtrennen — to calibrate einstellen — **cilantro** Koriander — **parsley** Petersilie — **thyme** Thymian — **sage** Salbei — **rosemary** Rosmarin — **tarragon** Estragon

**13-14** it's not a comparable thing to do es lässt s. nicht vergleichen — compelling überzeugend — to address bewältigen — food insecurity Lebensmittelunsicherheit — **USDA** = United States Department of Agriculture US-Landwirtschaftsministerium

## COMMENT

# One county's plan to revive the American Dream

**SOCIETY** | Washington County, Wisconsin, is testing two remedies that might just revive the dream there and across the country.



## Advanced training and cartoon interpretation

BY KEVIN FRAZIER

**1** RESIST the urge to publish the American Dream's obituary. It's alive, though unwell. It's no secret that the hallmarks of the dream have become unreachable for many Americans. Homeownership seems impossible in communities. Marriage rates have dropped. Families have shrunk. Even lifespans are on the decline. The dream's vital signs are cause for immense concern. There are signs of life — Washington County, Wisconsin, is testing two remedies that might just revive the dream there and across the country.

**2** Just north of Milwaukee, Washington County is — in many ways — a surprising source of hope. It faces no shortage of challenges. As county officials will tell you, they're struggling to hold on to their community members. Too few homes, too few jobs, and too few community connections led many residents to look for another place to call home. County Executive Josh Schoemann, however, refused to let the dream die in his community. He and others joined together to brainstorm novel cures for the disease eating away at prosperity.

**3** Washington County is conducting two experiments of national significance. The first is the Next Generation Housing Initiative. Established in 2021, the program aims to remove



**Housing Costs.** | CARTOON: Pat Bagley, The Salt Lake Tribune, UT

five main barriers to increasing the supply of affordable housing: high development costs, expensive down payments, zoning barriers, access to nearby meaningful employment, and community support. They expect that addressing these issues head-on will allow them to build 1,000 homes tailored to middle-class families by 2032. As of early 2025, 210 homes had already been approved for funding, with 56 homes currently under contract or sold.

**4** There's plenty of reason to believe they will continue to succeed and, ultimately, reach their goal. First, they've left politics at home. The coalition behind the initiative includes representatives from a range of communities and stakeholder groups. The county has also held several ad

hoc working group events with Realtors, lenders, educators, builders, nonprofit and faith

leaders, and planners. In short, county officials have committed themselves to making their county one where people not only stay but one that actively draws more people in.

**5** Second, they made solving basic needs a priority. The county received and accepted recovery funds in the wake of the pandemic and directed them toward recovery efforts on lost revenue. Come 2032, communities around the country should look to Washington County and see how they can emulate the initiative's success.

**6** Another project will also warrant adoption across the country as an American Dream stimulant. The Heart & Homestead Earned Down Payment Incentive is at once helping people find a place to call home while also helping them build community. The incentive is simple: receive up to \$20,000 in down payment incentive when purchasing a home and, over the next five years, "earn" that support through community service.

**7** The county rightfully recognizes that there's a real financial benefit to a community in which volunteerism is a

norm. For every hour of service volunteered at a local nonprofit or religious institution, a homeowner will earn \$25 of the incentive. For every dollar donated to participating groups, \$0.70 is earned. What's more, the whole family can help out — contributions from anyone living in the home go toward the incentive earnings. In the event the homeowner opts not to take advantage of those volunteer and donation opportunities, the county will receive any portion of the incentive that is not earned over the course of five years upon the eventual sale of the property or transfer of the deed.

**8** Washington County is on to something big. The American Dream is suffering because we've lost focus on its core components: a quality home, a quality job, and a quality community. Communities that dare to prioritize those basics, however, are proving that the dream is not dead but simply neglected. We can choose to build. We can choose to cultivate strong communities. We can choose to place people over politics.

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# Florida may loosen child labour laws to fill gap left by migrants

## CHILD LABOUR

BY BEVAN HURLEY

**1** CHILDREN as young as 14 could be allowed to work overnight shifts on school days to fill jobs previously held by undocumented workers, according to a bill approved by the Florida Senate. The Trump administration's zero-tolerance approach to immigration and border security has exacerbated labour shortages in low-wage industries such as agriculture, construction, and hospitality. In response, Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida, is championing legislation that would loosen child labour laws.

**2** The state Senate advanced a bill that would remove restrictions on 16- and 17-year-olds working before 6.30am or after 11pm, or working more than eight hours Monday to Friday. The legislation

would also end a requirement that pupils work no more than 30 hours a week and receive 30-minute meal breaks when they work eight-hour shifts. Children aged 14 and 15 would also be exempt from the restrictions if they meet certain criteria. These include being home-schooled, employed by their parents, having completed a high-school diploma, or those working in domestic service in private homes.

**3** The Florida state Senate's commerce and tourism committee narrowly voted to advance the bill by five votes to four on Tuesday. The legislation has to be passed by two other committees before being put to a full vote on the Senate floor. ...

**4** DeSantis, who is a vocal supporter of President Trump's policies on immigration, insisted that teenagers could fill the resultant gaps in the workforce. "Why do

we say we need to import foreigners, even import them illegally, when, you know, teenagers used to work at these resorts, college students should be able to do this stuff," he said.

**5** The move to roll back protections for child labour laws has alarmed some liberal groups. Jason Oberlink, the legislative director for Florida for All, an advocacy organisation, said the legislation would inevitably lead to exploitative workplace practices. "We're facing another attempt to strip away basic safeguards for Florida's children, all to appease corporate interests looking for cheap labour," he told the 'Tallahassee Democrat'....

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*This article originally appeared in The Times, London.*

**0-1** TO REVIVE wieder aufleben lassen — remedy Mittel — to resist widerstehen — urge Drang — obituary Nachruf — hallmarks (fig) Kennzeichen; Sinnbild — homeownership Besitz e-s Eigenheims — lifespan Lebenserwartung — to be on the decline s. verringern — vital sign Lebenszeichen  
**2-3** shortage Mangel — county official (AE) Mitarbeiter(in) der Kreisverwaltung — county executive (AE) Landrat(-rätin) — novel neu — prosperity Wohlstand — barrier Hürde — supply Angebot — development Bau — down payment Anzahlung — zoning barriers baurechtliche Einschränkungen — head-on direkt — tailored to zugeschnitten auf — funding Finanzierung — currently derzeit

**4** ultimately schließlich — stakeholder group Interessengruppe — Realtor (AE) Immobilienmakler(in) — lender Kreditgeber(in) — educator Pädagoge(-in) — builder Bauunternehmer(in) — nonprofit gemeinnützig — faith leader Vertreter(in) e-r Glaubengemeinschaft — to commit o.s. to doing s.th. s. e-r S. verscreiben

**5-6** recovery funds Wiederaufbaufonds — in the wake of im Zuge der/des — lost revenue Umsatzeinbußen — to emulate nachahmen — to warrant rechtfertigen — adoption Umsetzung — stimulant Impuls — homestead Eigenheim — incentive Anreiz; Förderung

**7-8** volunteerism ehrenamt. Engagement; s.w.u. to volunteer — in the event falls — to opt to do s. dafür entscheiden zu tun — to take advantage of nutzen — eventual spätere(r,s) — transfer of the deed Übertragung des Eigentums — to be on to s.th. big (coll) e-r großen S. auf der Spur sein — to lose focus on aus den Augen verlieren — core component Hauptbestandteil — to cultivate fördern

**0-1** TO LOSEN lockern — overnight shift Nachtshift — undocumented ... ... ohne Aufenthaltsrecht — bill Gesetzentwurf — administration Regierung — to exacerbate verschärfen — labour shortage Arbeitskräftemangel — construction Bau — hospitality Gastgewerbe — to champion s. einsetzen für — legislation Gesetze  
**2-3** state Senate Senat des Bundesstaates — to advance voranbringen — requirement Vorschrift — to be exempt from ausgenommen sein von — to work in domestic service als Hausangestellte(r) arbeiten — narr-  
**rowly knapp** — to be passed verabschiedet werden — on the Senate floor im Senat  
**4-5** vocal lautstark — resultant daraus folgend — gap h.: Engpass — to roll back rückgängig machen — legislative director Leiter(in) des Bereichs Gesetzgebung — advocacy organisation Lobbygruppe — inevitably zwangsläufig — exploitative ausbeuterisch — to strip away abschaffen — safeguards Schutzmaßnahmen — to appease besänftigen; befriedigen — corporate Unternehmens-



A young “mutton buster” at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. | PHOTOS: Meridith Kohut/The New York Times



A contestant in the breakaway roping competition



Houston prides itself on its food.



# The Houston rodeo is the Super Bowl of country culture

**TEXAS** | Spending a few days eating turkey legs, watching piglet races and ‘mutton bustin’ at the world’s largest rodeo and livestock show.

BY SHANNON SIMS

1 “MUTTON BUSTIN’,” where children lie on their bellies on top of an agitated sheep and try to hang on as the ovine shoots across a large arena, is one of the most beloved traditions at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Inevitably, the contestants slide off the sheep and face-plant into the dirt, with some coming away crying, others grinning proudly. With either outcome, the crowd at the largest livestock exhibition and rodeo in the world goes wild.

2 The Houston rodeo, which runs March 4 to 23, is beyond Texas-size. More than 2.5 million people attended last year. If you’re not from Texas, it’s probably hard to imagine: Only 6% of last year’s attendees came from other states.

3 NaSaysha Cheatham, a Nashville, Tennessee, resident, celebrated her 30th birthday with three friends at the rodeo. “I saw it on TikTok,” she said, “and I thought, ‘well, let’s dress up and go.’” On their visit, each of the women donned cowboy hats and knee-high boots with detailed stitching. Anjelique Hyatt, 30, noted that the friends “wanted to have our Beyoncé moment.” (The

pop juggernaut, who grew up in Houston, recently won three Grammys for her “Cowboy Carter” album.) “You see so many different variations of what it looks like to be a cowboy,” Cheatham added.

4 Other mega rodeos include the Calgary Stampede, Canada’s largest, and Wyoming’s Cheyenne Frontier Days, which claims to be the biggest outdoor rodeo. But Houston’s version is the Super Bowl event of contemporary country culture, held in a state that is the leading producer of cattle and beef in the United States: Texas raises more than double the number of head of cattle compared with any other state.

5 For participants, the annual event is serious business. Millions of dollars change hands as heifers brought in from around the world are sold, and programs highlighting specific livestock breeds, like the Open Beefmaster Show, draw spectators and participants alike. There’s also an international wine competition, a championship contest for barbecue, and a state-fair-sized carnival with roller coasters and Ferris wheels. A guinea pig competition offers awards for best fur coat, and a



A contestant in the bull-riding competition.

6-2 PIGLET Ferkel — mutton bustin(g) Schafrodeo — livestock; s.w.u. cattle Vieh — agitated aufgeregt — ovine Schaf — to shoot (coll) flitzen — inevitably zwangsläufig — to face-plant auf dem Gesicht landen — to grin grinsen

3-4 to don tragen — stitching Stickerei — juggernaut Gigant(in) — contemporary zeitgenössisch

5 to change hands den/die Besitzer(in) wechseln — heifer Färse — breed Art — to draw anlocken — spectator Zuschauer(in) — state fair Jahrmarkt — Ferris wheel Riesenrad — guinea pig Meerschweinchen — sprawling weitläufig — tur-

quise jewelry Türkisschmuck — to thumb through durchblättern — goatskin Ziegenleder — to shine polieren

6-8 to cap off abschließen — grounds Gelände — showcase (fig) Haupt- — to rope mit e-m Seil einfangen — club-level Loge(n) — atop auf — to buck buckeln — bronco (nicht eingrittenes) Pferd — to incur s. zuziehen — purse h.: Preisgeld

9-10 rewarding lohnenswert — to ranch in der Viehwirtschaft arbeiten — calf Kalb — to nurture aufziehen — suburban Vorstadt — to stand to win s.th. die Chance haben, etw. zu gewinnen — scholarship Stipendium — volunteer Freiwillige(r) — to

but most people also want to see the showcase stadium event: a two-hour professional rodeo of roping and riding, followed by the big concert. Those stadium tickets to the rodeo and concert (which include a reserved seat) range from about \$30 to \$500, with club-level options available.

8 The rodeo riders atop the raging, bucking broncos could go home with life-changing injuries, incurred in front of tens of thousands of people. Or, they could go home with life-changing winnings (the total rodeo purse this year is \$2.5 million).

9 Perhaps the most rewarding experience is an unadvertised one: the chance to speak with families who ranch and farm, and who come to the rodeo so their children can show off the rabbit, guinea pig or calf that they have been nurturing all year. Many suburban families travel to soccer tournaments, but these families travel to livestock shows.

10 The evenings are capped off by fireworks, drone shows, and concerts in a 72,200-seat stadium; this year’s performers include Reba McEntire, Journey, and Post Malone.

7 The cheapest way in is to buy a combination ticket to the grounds, the carnival, and the livestock shows (\$21 per adult),

11 Houston prides itself on its

food, and at the rodeo, everyone seemed to be working on a large fried turkey leg, despite a much broader variety of options. Food vendors compete in best-dish contests, the Gold Buckle Foodie Awards. This year some winners included an “all-meat baked potato” with a pork rib garnish from Harlon’s BBQ, and a thick slab of bacon served on a stick in a cloud of cotton candy from Roussou’s Fat Bacon.

12 Steps away from the food stands on a recent Saturday night, a line of people — turkey legs in hand — stood to get into the mutton bustin’ tent. Audience members stomped on the metal grandstand until it sounded like a hurricane, while children who had signed up to ride the sheep waited their turn.

13 Eight-year-old Siya Iyer, wearing a helmet with a face cage, looked worried. “I’m a little scared,” she said, eyes nervously darting around at the roaring crowd. “I have to hold on very tight.” After sliding off the sheep and face-planting into the dirt, she stood holding an ice pack against a swelling in her neck, her concerned parents doting on her. The next round of mutton bustin’ contestants filed into the pen, and through the crowd, Siya offered a small thumbs up.

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# King Charles treading a diplomatic tightrope after his tea with Zelensky

**MONARCHY • DIPLOMACY** | The King's meeting with Ukraine's president and inviting Donald Trump for a state visit are part of a three-fold role of building bridges around the world.

  **Listening comprehension**

BY KATE MANSEY

1 "THE AMERICAN people are quite fond of the royal family," Barack Obama told the King on a royal visit to the White House in 2015. "They like them much better than their own politicians."

2 The royal family's popularity is an asset, to both Buckingham Palace and the UK government. It brings diplomatic power yet it also comes with responsibilities. In the past week, the world has watched while Charles has navigated one of the most testing peacekeeping roles of his reign. From inviting President Trump to a state visit in a charming letter delivered with a flourish by Sir Keir Starmer, to a cosy fireside chat over a cup of tea with Presi-

dent Zelensky at the private royal estate of Sandringham, in Norfolk, the King has found himself at the centre of world politics.

3 Sources close to the King describe his current role as being three-fold: to show diplomacy in action by building bridges with America, by expressing continued European support for Ukraine, and, last but not least, through his support for the Commonwealth. The latter was seen in action when Charles met Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, at Sandringham yesterday. Trudeau has had his own problems with the new US administration after Trump's tariff threats.

4 As King of Canada, Charles has an obligation to a country



**King Charles**  
and President  
Volodymyr  
Zelensky at  
Sandringham  
House in  
March.  
| PHOTO:  
Joe Giddens/  
Empics/Picture  
Alliance

with which he has close ties. He visited 19 times before ascending the throne. It was there, on a visit to Halifax in 2014, that the King, then Prince of Wales, shared his

views on Putin, likening him to Hitler. The Kremlin was furious. As monarch, Charles will need to be more subtle with his language.

5 The King has been treading a

diplomatic tightrope as he works to build alliances across countries while not breaching the political guardrails. He has already deployed this method. Last month, a seemingly innocuous social media post on the official royal social media channels marked Canada's National Flag of Canada Day, not something the palace always commemorates. Coming during the height of Trump's attack on Canada, however, those in the palace were aware of the power of such a message at such a time.

6 Aides, not known for their hyperbole, have noted privately that the past week has been an exceptional moment for royal diplomacy, and one not seen for years. A royal source said that the King was "very conscious" of his global responsibility and unique diplomatic role, and he is determined to put that to good use. The source said: "It has been six days of royal diplomacy at its most delicate, deliberate, and nuanced. His Majesty is very conscious of his responsibility globally, regionally, and nationally and passionately engaged in all the detail..."

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*This article originally appeared in The Times, London.*

**0-3 TO TREAD a diplomatic tightrope** (fig) e-n diplomatischen Drahtseilakt vollführen — three-fold dreifach — **asset** Vorteil — to navigate bewältigen — testing schwierig — peace-keeping role Rolle als Friedenssicherer(-in) — reign Regenschaft — with a flourish feierlich; mit überschwänglicher Geste — fireside ... am Kamin — tariff Zoll

**4-5 ties Beziehungen** — to ascend the throne den Thron besteigen — to liken s.o. to jdn. vergleichen mit — **Kremlin** Kreml — subtle subtil — to breach verletzen — **guardrails** (fig) Leitlinien — to deploy anwenden — seemingly scheinbar — **innocuous** harmlos — to commemorate würdigen — during the height of auf dem Höhepunkt

**6 aide Berater(in)** — hyperbole h.: Hang zur Übertreibung — **exceptional** außergewöhnlich — to put s.th. to good use etw. gut einsetzen — **delicate** feinfühlig — **deliberate** bedacht — **nuanced** differenziert — to be engaged in s.th. s. mit etw. auseinandersetzen

# Strong UK–Ireland relations needed now more than ever, Starmer tells summit

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** | At first annual summit in Cheshire, PM says friendship with Dublin is crucial in 'uncertain and unstable' times. 

BY LISA O'CARROLL

1 KEIR STARMER has pledged a new era in Anglo-Irish relations after years of toxicity caused by Brexit as he opened a summit between the British and Irish governments in Cheshire. Speaking at the first instalment of what will be an annual UK–Ireland summit, he said the need

for a strong relationship between the two countries had never been greater. In turbulent times, there were huge benefits to friendship between the two countries, he said in his opening remarks.

2 In turn, the taoiseach, Micheál Martin, thanked Starmer for being the "centre of gravity and stability" at a time of crisis when decades of transatlantic



**Prime Minister**  
Sir Keir  
Starmer (left)  
and Taoiseach  
Micheál Martin  
in March.  
| PHOTO:  
Peter Byrne/  
Empics/Picture  
Alliance

relations had been upended by Donald Trump.

3 The UK prime minister said he wanted to focus on three themes during the meeting: Britain and Ireland working together to achieve economic growth, domestic security, and the transition to net zero. Starmer said: "Today's summit really marks a new era in the relationship between the UK

and Ireland. I think we've reset our relationship, turned a page on the turbulent years, if I may say, in recent years. ... As we sit here today, I think we would all agree that the world is more uncertain and unstable than it has been for a very long time, and there are huge benefits to strengthening our friendship and working together on geopolitical challenges."

4 Starmer said Thursday's discussions, which also involved ministerial delegations on education, trade, energy, and home affairs, were just the start of what "should be seen as a new era". Bonds between the two countries were severely tested during Brexit years with distrust of Boris Johnson and frustration with his predecessor Theresa May rupturing Anglo-Irish relations.

5 On Thursday, Martin renewed Ireland's pledge to help the UK reset its relationship with the wider EU. Before the summit, the Irish prime minister said he would do "anything" to facilitate greater ties with the EU, reducing trade barriers caused by Brexit where possible. Martin was speaking after a meeting with Starmer. "It's an extremely important relationship for Ireland, and when the UK economy does well, the Irish economy does well..."

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**0-2 SUMMIT** Gipfeltreffen — to pledge versprechen; s.w.u. pledge — toxicity (fig) vergiftetes Klima — **instalment** Auflage — **opening remarks** Eröffnungsrede — in turn seinerseits — **taoiseach** Regierungschef(in) von Irland — **centre of gravity**

(fig) Fixpunkt — to upend (fig) auf den Kopf stellen  
**3-5 domestic security** innere Sicherheit — **transition** Übergang — net zero Nettonullemissionen — to reset neu ordnen — to turn a page on s.th. (fig) etw. hinter s. lassen — **ministerial**

**delegation** Delegation von Ministern(-innen) — **home affairs** Innen — **distrust of** Misstrauen gegenüber — **predecessor** (Amts-)Vorgänger(in) — to rupture zerrüttten — to facilitate erleichtern — **ties** Beziehungen

# What is the House of Lords and what do peers do?

## PARLIAMENT

BY HENRY DYER

**1** AWAY FROM the noise of Big Ben and Parliament Square, tucked away on a quieter side of the walls that surround the Palace of Westminster, a doorkeeper in a thick red coat and black top hat stands at a gothic stone porch. This may look like the door to a five-star hotel, but in fact, it is the members' entrance for the House of Lords. Parliament's upper chamber has ballooned in recent years to more than 800 peers, who range from the last of the blue-blooded aristocrats, to bishops and bestowers of generous political donations.

### Who is in the House of Lords?

**2** Most peers hold the title of baron or baroness: the form is used by commoners raised to the nobility until death. Many will have been in politics or government, as senior MPs and council leaders, Permanent Secretaries and spooks, before their "elevation" to life peerages.

**3** Others have a background in business: some were industry leaders, now serving as peers boards. Lawyers are here, too, a stone's throw from Westminster Hall where each year barristers are promoted to the rank of King's Counsel at a ceremony presided over by the Lord Chancellor. There are also the scribblers: academics, journalists, dramatists. And in the mix are a few former royal courtiers, charity bosses, and trade unionists.

**4** There are 26 spaces for Church of England bishops, with reserved spots for the most senior, including the archbishops of Canterbury and York. The Right Reverend prelates sit nearest the throne, their bench identifiable as the only one with armrests, in recognition of the seniority of the archbishop of Canterbury. This seating arrangement dates back to a law passed during the reign of Henry VIII.



**King Charles reads** the King's Speech in the House of Lords chamber during the State Opening of Parliament in July 2024. | PHOTO: Kirsty Wigglesworth/WPA Pool/Getty Images

**5** The final category, the hereditary peers, are holding on by the tips of their signet-ringed fingers. In the late 90s there were more than 750, mostly Conservative party members, before Tony Blair reduced their number to 92. Over the coming months, Keir Starmer intends to finish the job. Once the House of Lords (hereditary peers) bill is approved, Labour's guillotine will end the right of descendants of the likes of the Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Liverpool to sit in the Lords.

### What happens in the House of Lords?

**6** As most ministers are based in the Commons, statements from the government are typically given first to MPs, before being repeated verbatim to the peers by a minister in the House of Lords. The main business of the Lords is to scrutinise legislation, a line-by-line analysis drawing upon the expertise of its members. The Lords is a chance to fine tune and, where necessary, reshape ...

**7** The Lords has a built-in political imbalance. The Conservatives have 279 peers to Labour's 214, which means the party now in government cannot pass its legislation without the help of the 184 crossbench peers. Despite their lower numbers, Labour peers were able to hold up bills under the last government with the help of the crossbench. When this happens, the bill is sent back to the Commons, for MPs to consider the Lords' amendments, before returning to the upper house again.

### What's this about ferrets and who is 'bottom boy'?

**8** The process of sending bills back and forth between the chambers is known as "parliamentary ping-pong", and it involves a set of elaborate rituals. Dressed in black stockings, and wigs for the Lords, clerks carry bundles of messages tied in silk ribbons. The messages note why one house disagrees with the proposed amendments of the other,

and the language in which the messages are written is ... Norman French.

**9** The official language of government when the English parliament was established in the 13th century, it is used for messages such as: "Ceste Bille est remise aux seigneurs avecque des Raisons." In a concession to modernity, the reasons themselves are given in English. Messages from the Commons are composed by a clerk blessed with the job title of "bottom boy".

**10** The colour of the ribbon around each bundle signifies which house is sending it: red for the Lords, green for the Commons, to match the leather benches on which each house sits. The ribbon itself is known as a ferret, from the Italian fioretti, a type of silk historically used to make the ribbon ...

### Do peers get paid?

**11** Peers who attend the proceedings of the Lords in Westminster, such as debates in the

main chamber, meetings of committees, or votes in divisions, are entitled to a daily allowance of £361, tax-free. Taking part in debates or meetings is not required, and no minimum time is specified for how long a peer must attend the proceedings. Some peers entitled to attend remotely are still eligible for the daily allowance. Office holders, such as ministers and the Lord Speaker, cannot claim the daily allowance. In addition, peers from outside London can claim £100 a night to cover hotel costs, and their travel expenses to and from Westminster.

### Where do I sign up?

**12** One well-trodden route to becoming a peer is to become an MP first. No easy task, but the House of Lords Library has found that 20% of members were MPs. Another is to become a party donor; such financial support can attract the attention of political leaders keen to exercise their powers of patronage. Most peers are chosen by the prime minister and the leaders of opposition parties. Since 2001, a smaller number have been chosen by the politically neutral House of Lords appointments commission. These peers are expected to sit on the crossbenches.

**13** Any British, Irish, and Commonwealth citizen over 21 can put themselves forward. One recently appointed non-political life peer, Dr Alexandra Freeman, put herself forward after hearing a call for more scientific experts in the Lords on Radio 4. Before rushing to the nomination form, note that, if successful, peers are not able to vote in general elections.

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**Von Magna Carta bis Devolution**

**Extra: The United Kingdom – The Political System**

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**0-1** HOUSE OF LORDS brit. Oberhaus — peer Mitglied des Oberhauses; Adlige(r) — tucked away versteckt — porch Eingangsportal — to balloon to anschwellen auf — bestower Geber(in)

**2** commoner Bürger(in) — to be raised to the nobility in den Adelsstand erhoben werden — council leader Ratsvorsitzende(r) — Permanent Secretary Staatssekretär(in) — spook (coll) Spion(in) — elevation to Erhebung zu — life peerage Peerswürde auf Lebenszeit

**3** industry leader Spitzmanager(in) — board Ausschuss — barrister Rechtsanwalt(-anwältin) (vor höheren Gerichten) — King's Counsel Kronanwalt(-anwältin) — to preside

over vorstehen — Lord Chancellor Lordkanzler; Justizminister(in) — scribbler Schreiberling — royal courtier Hofbeamter(-in) — trade unionist Gewerkschafter(in)

**4-5** archbishop Erzbischof(-bischofin) — Right Reverend hochwürdige(r) — prelate Prälat(in) — identifiable erkennbar — in recognition of als Anerkennung — seniority höherer Rang — reign Regentschaft — hereditary peer Mitglied des Oberhauses durch Erbfolge — signet-ringed ... mit Siegelring — bill Gesetzentwurf — descendant Nachfahre(-in)

**6-7** verbatim im Wortlaut — to scrutinise eingehend prüfen — legislation Gesetze — to fine tune

den Feinschliff geben — to reshape umarbeiten — crossbench parteilos — amendment Änderung

**8-11** ferret Frettchen — elaborate aufwendig; ausgefeilt — clerk Beamter(-in) — concession to Zugeständnis an — to signify kennzeichnen — vote Abstimmung — entitled; s.w.u. eligible anspruchsberchtigt — daily allowance Tagessatz — remotely h.: aus dem Homeoffice — office holder Amtsträger(in)

**12-13** well-trodden (fig) viel genutzt — party donor Parteispender(in) — patronage Gönnerchaft — appointments commission Berufungskommission — to appoint berufen — call for Ruf nach

# A tiny island nation is selling passports to beat climate change

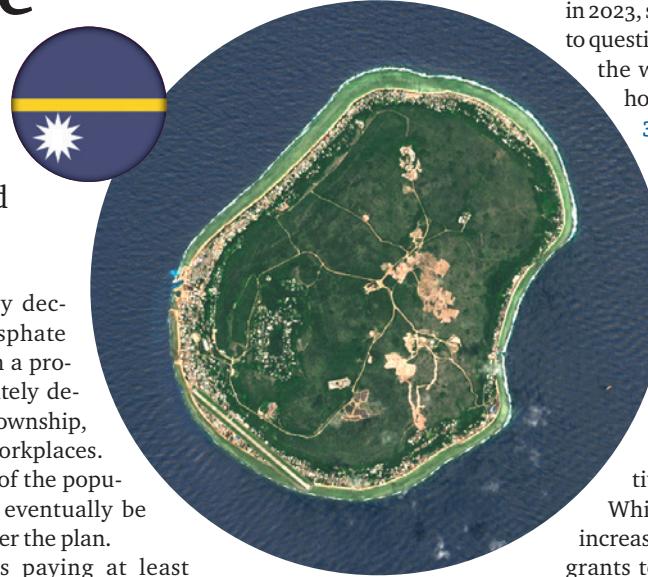
**NAURU** | Foreigners paying at least \$140,500 for a passport can take advantage of visa-free access to destinations including the UK and Singapore.

BY CHANYAPORN CHANJAROEN ET AL.

**1** TO HELP meet the cost of moving about 10,000 residents from low-lying homes menaced by rising sea levels and floods, the remote Pacific Ocean nation of Nauru aims to sell citizenships for the climate-threatened island. President David Adeang is seeking to raise an initial \$65 million for work to transform the barren interior – left as an uninhabitable

moonscape by decades of phosphate mining – with a project to ultimately develop a new township, farms, and workplaces. Around 90% of the population would eventually be relocated under the plan.

**2** Foreigners paying at least \$140,500 for a passport will likely never set foot on the island nation, which lies around 4,000 kilometers northeast of Sydney, left as an uninhabitable



**A satellite image** of Nauru.  
| PHOTO: Gallo Images/Orbital Horizon/Copernicus Sentinel Data 2024/Getty Images

**0-1** TO MEET decken — rising sea levels steigender Meerespiegel — citizenship Staatsbürgerschaft — to seek to do s. bemühen zu tun — barren karg — interior Landesinneres — uninhabitable unbewohnbar — moonscape Mondlandschaft — phosphate mining Phosphatabbau; s.w.u. to mine abrufen — ultimately letztlich — township Stadtgemeinde — to relocate umsiedeln

**2** to set foot on betreten — climate action Klimaschutzmaß-

nahmen — to secure sichern — written response schriftl. Antwort — to wash away wegenschwemmen  
**3** proceeds; s.w.u. revenue Einnahmen — escalating s. verschärfend — illustration Beispiel — funding Finanzierung — to deploy einsetzen — resilience Widerstandskraft; Anpassungsfähigkeit — grant Zuschuss — developing country Entwicklungsland — adaptation financing finanzielle Mittel zur Anpassung an die Auswirkungen des Klimawandels — billion Milliarde

**4** higher ground höhere Lage — to outline umreißen — official Regierungsbeamter(-in) — A\$ = Australian Dollar — to be underway im Gange sein — fertilizer Dünger

**5** per capita GDP Pro-Kopf-Bruttoinlandsprodukt — to plunge stark fallen — to deplete erschöpfen — sovereign wealth fund Staatsfonds — to back finanziell unterstützen — contentious umstritten — to detain gefangen halten — asylum seeker Asylsuchende(r)

Environment Programme said in a November report ...

**4** Passport sales alone won't fully cover the costs of Nauru's Higher Ground Initiative, first outlined in 2019, and officials are exploring the potential to also win support from public and private sources. An initial A\$102 million (\$65 million) phase is underway to free up about ten hectares of land on the island's so-called Topside, which was mined for phosphate – commonly used in fertilizer – for about a century from the early 1900s. Nauru gained independence in 1968.

**5** Nauru's per capita GDP plunged as its phosphate reserves were depleted, triggering a range of government efforts to generate new revenue, from establishing a sovereign wealth fund, to backing a London musical that flopped, and a contentious agreement to detain asylum seekers for Australia....

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## Australia's new \$5 note to reflect First Nations connection to country

**INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS** | Reserve Bank opens submissions for redesign after theme chosen from 2,100 nominated.

BY SARAH COLLARD

**1** THE RESERVE BANK of Australia has opened submissions for an artwork to honour the “enduring emotional, spiritual, and physical connection” of First Nations people to the land, seas, and waters dating back thousands of years. The proposal to feature Indigenous history instead of the new monarch, King Charles III, on the note drew some criticism when first announced in 2023, with the opposition leader, Peter Dutton, describing it as “another attack on our systems, on our society, and on our institutions”.

**2** On Monday, the RBA assistant governor Michelle McPhee said the theme was chosen out of 2,100 nominated themes after an Australia-wide campaign. The refreshed note will for the first time not feature a portrait of a person. It will still bear the Australian federal parliament on the note's reverse side.

**3** The RBA said submissions should consider as an important context the overturning of the doctrine of terra nullius,



| PHOTO: Melissa Walker Horn/Unsplash

which was the legal justification for treating Australia as a settled colony in 1788, and not a land which had been conquered. It was overturned by the high court

through the Mabo decision in 1992, the case which established native title.

**4** “This action recognised the existence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's relationship to Country for thousands of years. The artist is invited to reflect how this decision

has shaped a positive future for First Nations peoples,” the RBA said. The RBA also said it hoped that environmental protection and care was explored through the artwork, to recognise First Nations people caring and prioritising environmental sustainability for tens of thousands of years, and

**0-2** INDIGENOUS indigen — Reserve Bank Zentralbank — to open submissions Einreichungen annehmen — redesign Neu-gestaltung — enduring anhaltend; dauerhaft — to draw criticism Kritik auf s. ziehen — assistant governor Vizepräsident(in) — refreshed neu gestaltet — to bear zeigen — federal parlia-ment nationales Parlament — reverse side Rückseite

**3-4** overturning Aufhebung; s.w.u. to overturn — terra nullius Niemandsland — justification Rechtfertigung — settled colony Siedlerkolonie — to conquer erobern — high court Oberster Gerichtshof — native title Rechtsanspruch der Indigen — environmental sustainability Umweltverträglichkeit — tokenistic rein symbolisch; heuchlerisch

**5-6** engraving Gravur — to issue ausgeben — to depict zeigen — Lt = lieutenant Leutnant — warrior Krieger(in) — spear Speer — armed resistance bewaffneter Widerstand — encroachment of territory Inbesitznahme von Land — copyright dispute Urheberrechtsstreit — medallion Medaillon

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Ronald Lamola, South Africa's minister of international relations and cooperation, speaks at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Johannesburg in February. | PHOTO: Zhang Yudong/Xinhua News Agency/ Picture Alliance

## 'Failed city' in a hole before G20 visit

**SOUTH AFRICA** | The engine of South Africa is blighted by corruption and crumbling infrastructure just as South Africa takes leadership of the G20.

BY JANE FLANAGAN



**1** A NIGHT DRIVE from Johannesburg's international airport to its top hotels feels dystopian. Miles are in darkness; not a single traffic light blinks. It is no more flattering in daylight for South Africa's economic hub, which epitomises the incompetence and corruption that have buckled services across much of the country.

**2** For those who still pay them, Johannesburg's municipal bills have rocketed, but with ever-shrinking returns. Weed-filled roads are crumbling, as are the sewage and water pipes. Criminals make the most of prolonged power cuts and the lack of police. There is no escape from the blight even in the wealthiest areas, where it is easy to imagine you are in Harare, capital of the neighbouring pariah state, Zimbabwe.

**3** The worsening decay is badly timed. South Africa has just taken leadership of the G20, a first for Africa. It is a unique chance to attract investment to Johannesburg when it hosts a meeting of leaders from the world's richest nations at the end of the year.

**4** Since the road collapsed outside their detached home in Parktown, the Gaylard family make only essential journeys via the sliver of cracked tarmac that is left. "We don't have visitors anymore because we can't guarantee their safety," Alison Gaylard said, peering into the 3.5m (11ft) crater outside her gate. What started as a small hole last year was blamed on a leaking pipe that was reportedly fixed until a heavy downpour opened a chasm. For months, workmen from different departments have inspected, taken pictures, and left. "I see so

little progress," Gaylard, a communications consultant, said of a scene that is Johannesburg in miniature.

**5** With the perspective of a life-long Joburger, Gaylard rates her sinkhole as preferable to living through three weeks of winter without power. Or the recent experience of having no water for six days. "We are luckier than most," she said with a shrug, "at least we have a swimming pool."

**6** Parktown's mansions were built in the 1890s for the so-called Rands, who arrived to make fortunes after gold was discovered on Johannesburg's ridges. The city of more than 5.5 million people is still Africa's wealthiest and contributes almost a fifth of South Africa's gross domestic product, but many are wondering how long that will last.

**7** "I've never seen Johannesburg as bad as this," said Mpho Phalatse, who served 13 months

man Handwerker — to inspect inspizieren — communications consultant Kommunikationsberater(in)

**5-7** Joburger Einwohner(in) Johannesburgs — sinkhole Krater — shrug Achselzucken — mansion Villa — ridge Gebirgskamm — gross domestic product Bruttoinlandsprodukt — to topple stürzen — to change hands (fig) in andere Hände übergehen — to bicker streiten — medical doctor Arzt Ärztin

**8** costly teuer — R = Rand — billion Milliarde — council documents Stadtratsunterlagen — expenditure Ausgaben — archaic veraltet — householder Hauseigentümer(in) — to bypass umgehen — meter Stromzähler

**9-11** state staatlich — power provider Stromanbieter — historical debt Altschulden — public contract öffentl. Auftrag

as the city's mayor for the Democratic Alliance before she was toppled in 2023 by rivals in a ten-party coalition. The post has changed hands ten times since 2019. "More time is spent bickering than doing what is needed. Unless things change, we are headed to becoming a failed city," added Phalatse, a medical doctor, who has left politics "for now".

**8** The list to fix Johannesburg grows longer and more costly every day. Just to get back to serving basic levels of water, power, and road infrastructure would need R220 billion (£9.5 billion), according to council documents seen by Bloomberg. Expenditure is higher than income. Nearly half of Johannesburg's water is either leaking through archaic pipes or consumed by non-payers. A third of the power supply is being lost to the theft of cables, vandalism, or householders bypassing their meters.

**9** Eskom, the state power provider that struggles to keep the country's lights on, reported last year that City Power, which supplies Gauteng province, including Johannesburg and Pretoria, owed it R4.9 billion in historical debt.

**10** Lucrative public contracts have drained public coffers, and lined a few pockets, but have failed to stop the rot. In January, the auditor general's office put wasteful expenditure in Johannesburg at more than R1 billion.

**11** Some businesses and residents are packing up. The Gaylards are considering a move. "We love Joburg, we love our home — but what would we even get for it?" Gaylard said.

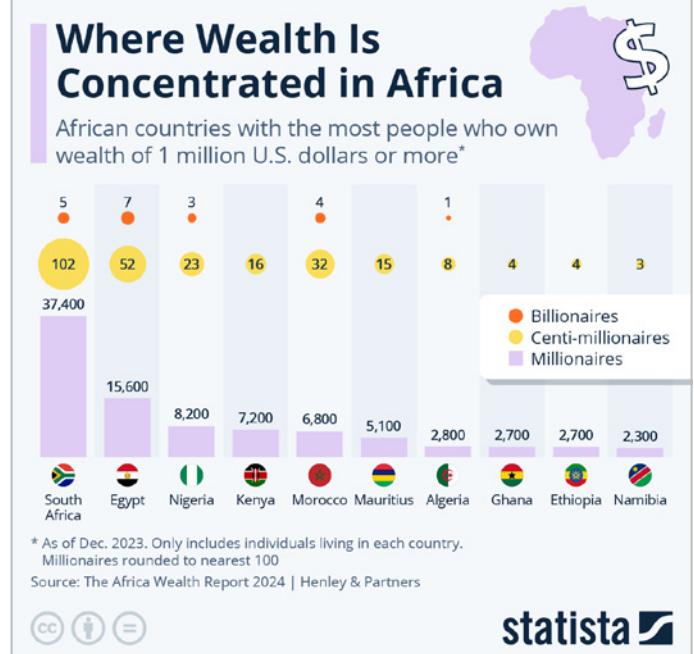
**12** Those who stay pay private operators to plug the gaps of the chaotic authorities. When traffic lights fail, the homeless step in to break the gridlock. Kenny Kunene, the African National Congress official in charge of Johannesburg's transport network, has even said he is open to training those "in a healthy condition" to keep traffic flowing.

**13** The G20 summit takes place in November. Grasping the moment, Dada Morero, the city's newest mayor — his second stint in the role since he served 25 days in 2022 — has ordered a cleaning blitz or, as he called it, an "accelerated service delivery". Contractors and ranks of the previously unemployed youth are being deployed to trim verges and fix lights on routes that will carry VIPs in the coming months.

**14** Yunus Chamda, of the Johannesburg Crisis Alliance of residents and civil society activists, who are waging a "Save Joburg" campaign, said: "If we let Johannesburg go, then it takes South Africa with it."

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This article originally appeared in *The Times, London*.



statista

INFOGRAPHIC: Statista

**0-1** IN A HOLE (BE, coll) in der Klemme — to blight plagen; s.w.u. blight (fig) Verfall — to crumble verfallen — flattering schmeichelhaft — economic hub Wirtschaftszentrum — to epitomise versinnbildlichen — to buckle schwächen

**2-3** municipal bills Rechnungen für Wasser- und Energieversorgung (m. u. Stadtwerk) — to rocket in die Höhe schießen — return Rendite — weed-filled ... voller Unkraut — sewage pipe Abwasserleitung — prolonged lang anhaltend — power cut Stromausfall — pariah state Pariastaat — worsening s. verschlimmern — decay Verfall — to host ausrichten

**4** detached home Einfamilienhaus — sliver Streifen — tarmac Asphalt — to peer spähen — leaking undicht — reportedly angeblich — downpour Platzregen — chasm Abgrund — work-

— to drain leeren — public coffers öffentl. Kassen — to line pockets (fig) jds. Taschen füllen — rot Fäulnis; h.: (fig) Verfall — auditor general's office Rechnungsprüfungsbehörde — wasteful verschwenderisch — to pack up seine Sachen packen

**12** private operator private(r) Betreiber(in) — to plug the gaps (fig) die Lücken schließen — authority Behörde — to step in eingreifen — to break the gridlock den Verkehrskollaps auflösen — official Mandatsträger(in)

**13-14** summit Gipfel — to grasp the moment (fig) die Gelegenheit ergreifen — stint h.: Amtszeit — blitz Aktion — accelerated beschleunigt — contractor Bauunternehmer(in) — ranks Scharen — to deploy einsetzen — verge Grünstreifen — to wage führen



A Tesla Model 3. | PHOTO: Sjoerd van der Wal/Getty Images

## Elon Musk backlash turns into global sales slump for Tesla

**CARS** | Musk's involvement in right-wing politics contributed to a 13% drop in deliveries in the first quarter.

BY MELISSA EDDY AND JACK EWING

**1** IF THERE IS anyplace Tesla should be thriving, it's Norway. Electric vehicles account for more than 90% of new car sales in the Scandinavian country, and buyers here are among the most sophisticated in the world when it comes to understanding the nuances of batteries, charging, and range. So it hardly bodes well for Tesla that its sales in Norway, as measured by registrations, have declined more than 12% so far this year. Sales for the first three months of the year were even worse in Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

**2** In fact, Tesla's sales have been on a steep downward trend around the world: The company said Wednesday that its global sales in the first quarter fell 13% from a year earlier. Tesla said it delivered nearly 337,000 cars during the quarter. That is down from 387,000 in the first three months of 2024.

**3** The company's tepid sales at a time when electric vehicle sales were rising around the world reflected a number of serious problems, not least a consumer backlash against the prominent role that CEO Elon Musk is playing in the Trump administration.

**4** Last year, Tesla accounted for nearly a quarter of car sales in Norway, far more than any other carmaker. But in the first two months of this year Tesla slipped to third place behind Volkswagen and Toyota. Teslas made up just 9% of new cars sold, less than half of its market share a year earlier. For Tesla, the decline in the world's most advanced electric vehicle market is ominous, signaling problems to come else-

where. "Norway is always a good place to look into the future," said Will Roberts, who follows electric vehicles at Rho Motion, a research firm.

**5** There are several explanations for Tesla's sales decline. Traditional carmakers have become more adept at building electric vehicles and have begun to catch up to Tesla in technology. Some of the sales decline could be due to buyers who are waiting for an upgraded version of the Model Y, analysts said. Musk's support for right-wing parties in Europe and his role as President Donald Trump's cost-cutter in chief have not helped Tesla's image. He has been the focus of protests around the United States and Europe, and his activities have alienated some customers. In most countries, buyers of electric vehicles lean left politically.

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*This article originally appeared in The New York Times.*

**i**  
**Aufgaben & Audios**  
**Digital**  
**Im Abo PREMIUM**  
**20% günstiger!**  
**Jetzt upgraden!**

**0-1** BACKLASH Protest; Unmut — sales slump Absatz-einbruch — right-wing rechte(r,s) — to thrive florieren; erfolgreich sein — to account for ausmachen — sophisticated bewandert — range Reichweite — to (not) bode well (nichts) Gutes verheißen — measured by gemessen an; h.: nach — registrations Neuzulassungen — to decline zurückgehen

**2-5** steep steil; heftig — downward trend Abwärts-

trend — tepid lau; h.: schleppend — carmaker Autohersteller — to slip to abrupten auf — market share Marktanteil — ominous unheilvoll — research firm Marktforschungsunternehmen — adept versiert — cost-cutter in chief oberste(r) Beauftragte(r) für Einsparungen — to alienate verprellen — to lean left politisch links tendieren

# Few came to his book signing. TikTok turned his book into a bestseller.

## BOOKS

BY GAYA GUPTA

**1** JONATHAN STANLEY had been sitting at a Barnes & Noble store for about an hour, behind a stack of his own books, when he saw a four-year-old girl marching toward him. "I want to be an author when I grow up," Ella Dinelli told Stanley, who was at the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, store on March 22 to promote his book about leadership strategy. The girl and her mother, Taylor Dinelli, 29, agreed to use the money they had saved that afternoon for a Starbucks drink to instead buy a copy, which Stanley signed. "Ella," he wrote, "the greatest gift you have to offer is you!"

**2** The interaction was brief — no more than a few minutes — but it would change Stanley's life. A week after Dinelli posted a TikTok of the exchange, the video has been viewed more than 77 million times, and tens of thousands of people have commented that they had just followed Stanley's account or bought his book, 'Purposeful Performance: The Secret Mix of Connecting, Leading, and Succeeding.' The book shot onto Amazon's top 20 most-sold list for nonfiction, and publishers from around the world approached Stanley about acquiring the rights to the text. (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns 'The Washington Post'.)

**3** "All of a sudden, I'm getting messages from every corner of the globe just streaming through my phone," Stanley said in an interview. "I was overwhelmed, and I believe the American workplace is broken in many ways. Our responsibility as leaders is to empower others, to uplift them and help them reach their full potential." ...



writers and readers — colloquially known as "BookTok" — can catapult relatively unknown authors to newfound fame. Posts about authors sitting alone at their signings have done particularly well on social media: In 2022, authors including Margaret Atwood and Stephen King rallied around a fantasy author who shared that only two people had come to her signing.

**5** After Stanley settled in at the Barnes & Noble store, the first person to come up to him advised him to keep his expectations low. A fellow author, she said she had sat in a chair just like his for four hours and sold just one book.

**6** But Stanley said he wasn't discouraged: He believed in the importance of his book's message, which is about bringing humanity back into the workplace. "I've talked to so many people who are disengaged at work," he said. "They feel unseen, unheard, and undervalued, and I believe the American workplace is broken in many ways. Our responsibility as leaders is to empower others, to uplift them and help them reach their full potential." ...

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**0-3** BOOK SIGNING Signierstunde — stack Stapel — leadership strategy Führungsstrategie — purposeful zielgerichtet — nonfiction Sachbücher — to approach kontaktieren — founder Gründer(in) — from every corner of the globe aus aller Welt — to stream strömen — overwhelmed überwältigt

**4-6** newfound neu — to rally around s.o. h.: jdn. unterstützen — to settle in es s. bequem machen — humanity Menschlichkeit — disengaged unmotiviert; nicht mehr engagiert — undervalued unterschätzt — to empower stärken — to uplift fördern

# Nervous about Trump, international tourists scrap their U.S. travel plans

**TOURISM** | International tourists are canceling plans to visit the United States, with Canadians leading the way.



BY ABHA BHATTARAI

**1** INTERNATIONAL travelers concerned about President Donald Trump's trade policies and bellicose rhetoric have been canceling trips to the United States, depriving the U.S. tourism industry of billions of dollars at a time when the economy has started to appear wobbly. Canadians are skipping trips to Disney World and music festivals. Europeans are eschewing U.S. national parks, and Chinese travelers are vacationing in Australia instead.

**2** International travel to the United States is expected to slide by 5 percent this year, contributing to a \$64 billion shortfall for the travel industry, according to Tourism Economics. The research firm had originally forecast a 9 percent increase in foreign travel, but revised its estimate late last month to reflect "polarizing Trump Administration policies and rhetoric."

**3** "There's been a dramatic shift in our outlook," said Adam Sacks, president of Tourism Economics. "You're looking at a much weaker economic engine than what otherwise would've been, not just because of tariffs, but the rhetoric and condescending tone around it."

**4** The number of overseas visitors to the United States fell 2.4 percent in February from a year earlier, government data shows, with the biggest drops in travelers from Africa (down 9 percent), Asia (7 percent), and Central America (6 percent). Meanwhile, travel from China—a frequent target of the president's ire—is down 11 percent.



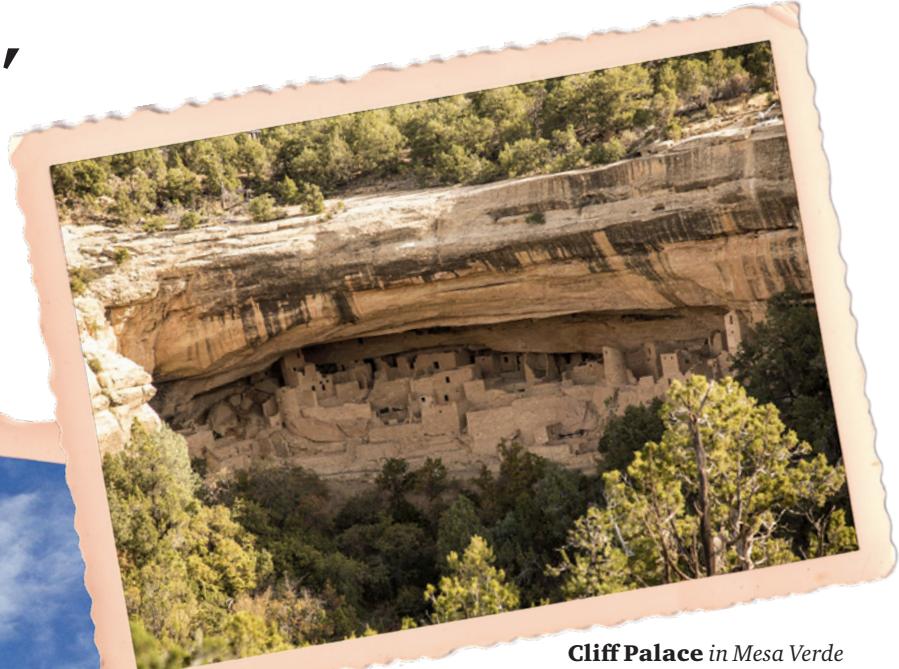
**Cinderella's Castle**  
in Disney World. | PHOTO: AWSeebaran/Getty Images

**5** Penelope Poole, who lives in the Philippines, is scrapping plans for a family cruise in Florida with her 90-year-old mother. Instead, she and nearly 30 relatives are heading to a lakeside resort in Canada. "My siblings and I decided that given the early volatility and hostility of this administration, we couldn't take a chance," the 66-year-old said, adding that some relatives would be traveling from Indonesia and Mexico. "We were increasingly concerned about personal safety."

**6** This moment isn't without precedent. Sacks notes that international tourism slowed sharply during the first Trump presidency, amounting to roughly \$20 billion in unrealized revenue, even before COVID-related dis-

ruptions. Back then, it was tourists from Mexico, China, and the Middle East who were pulling back, deterred by the administration's travel bans, tariffs, and tough talk on immigration. This time, Canada—the top source of international travel to the United States—is poised to lead the way. Trump has for weeks said he wants to make the country a "51st state." In response, Canada's former prime minister, Justin Trudeau, urged Canadians not to vacation in the United States.

**7** They appear to have listened: The number of Canadians driving back from visits to the United States fell by 23 percent in February, while air travel from the United States was down 13 percent compared with a year earlier,



**Cliff Palace** in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado.  
| PHOTO: NPS/Sandy Groves

according to government figures from Statistics Canada. Altogether, Tourism Economics expects a 15 percent decline in travel from Canada this year, translating to \$3.3 billion in lost spending.

**8** Bertha Lopez, who is from Mexico and lives near Toronto, used to cross the U.S. border every few weeks to buy staples like butter and cheese. This year, she's stopped all of that—and vows not to set foot in the United States for at least a few years. She recently canceled a trip to Arizona to visit a longtime friend whose husband is ill; instead, she's buying her friend a ticket to visit her in Canada this summer. "All of this talk of making Canada the 51st state has been upsetting. It's just incredibly offensive," the 54-year-old said. "So I'm doing what I can: No more Tide. No more Coca-Cola. No more Disney. And barring a funeral or someone in the hospital, I am not going to the United States."

**9** Canada's retreat comes at a tough time for the U.S. tourism industry, which is facing pressures of its own at home. U.S. airlines last week warned that demand is slowing, with Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and American Airlines all revising down their forecasts for the first three months of the year. Government and business travel are waning, and hotel and travel company executives say Americans—especially those with low-

er incomes—are cutting back on vacations because of economic uncertainty.

**10** "People are cautious, and they're pulling back a little bit on travel," Delta CEO Edward Herman Bastian said in a presentation on Tuesday. Travelers, he said, are "kind of waiting to see what's going to transpire, whether it's trade and tariff challenges or macroeconomic policy changes."

**11** Notably, the hospitality and leisure industry has posted two months of job losses at a time when the broader labor market is growing. At the Vacationeer, a Disney-focused travel agency in Florida that works almost exclusively with domestic travelers, bookings are up more than 5 percent from a year ago. But owner Jonathan de Araujo is nervous about whether people will stick to their plans—many plunk down \$200 deposits on their credit cards, thinking they'll make a final decision down the line. And with the stock market's recent slide and increased recession worries, he says he won't be surprised if a "big cancellation wave" is around the corner.

"When there's trouble in the economy, the first thing people cut is their travel budget," he said. "They wait until it's time to pay in full, and they say, 'Actually I can't afford this.' That's what I'm worried about..."

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**5-1** TO SCRAP verwerfen — trade policies Handelspolitik — bellicose kämpferisch; aggressiv — to deprive s.th. of s.th. etw. e-r S. berauben — wobbly unsicher — to eschew meiden — to vacation Urlaub machen

**2-4** to slide zurückgehen — shortfall Fehlbetrag — research firm Marktforschungsunternehmen — outlook Prognose — economic engine Wirtschaftsmotor — tariffs Zölle — condescending herablassend — government data staatl. Daten — ire Zorn

**5-6** lakeside ... am See — siblings Geschwister — volatility

Flatterhaftigkeit — hostility Feindseligkeit — to take a chance ein Risiko eingehen — without precedent beispiellos — to slow sharply stark zurückgehen — to amount to s.th. auf etw. hin-auslaufen — unrealized revenue nicht realisierte Einnahmen — disruption Störung; Verwerfung — to deter abschrecken — to be poised to do im Begriff sein zu tun — to urge eindringlich auffordern

**7-9** air travel Flugreise — decline Rückgang — to translate to s. niederschlagen in — spending Ausgaben — staple Grundnah-

rungsmittel — to vow geloben — barring abgesehen von — retreat Rückzug — to wane nachlassen — executive Manager(in) — uncertainty Unsicherheit

**10-11** cautious vorsichtig — to pull back s. bei etwas zurückhalten — to transpire geschehen — notably auffallend — hospitality and leisure industry Gastgewerbe und Freizeitbranche — to post verzeichnen — labor market Arbeitsmarkt — to plunk down (coll) hinwerfen; h.: (fig) leisten — deposit Anzahlung — down the line später — stock market Börse

# Romans 'created modern Germany's divisions – not the Berlin Wall'

**HISTORY** | Research links Roman rule to regional differences in personality and wellbeing.

BY OLIVER MOODY

IT IS commonplace to assert that the former boundary between capitalist West Germany and the socialist East can still be seen on virtually every statistical map, ranging from how people vote, how regularly they eat sausages, and what they cook on Christmas Eve. Yet a study has suggested that the legacy of the Berlin Wall is a mere flash in the pan compared to a divide that is nearly 1,900 years older.

If you really want to understand how modern Germany is structured, it argues, you should look instead to the ancient frontier of Roman rule. By about AD150, after several disastrous attempts to pacify the Germanic tribes, the Romans cut their losses and built a gigantic line of fortifications. The walls, forts, ditch-



Entrance gate to a restored Roman fort on the Limes in Hesse, Germany. | PHOTO: Frank Wagner/Getty Images

es, and watchtowers stretched for more than 350 miles from the mouth of the Rhine to Regensburg on the Danube.

On one side, there was – at least as the Roman historian Tacitus described it – a hostile desolation of thick woods populated by beer-swilling noble savages in badly tailored trousers. On the other was civilisation: sophisticated cities such as Augusta Treverorum (Trier), Mogontia-

cum (Mainz), and Aquae Granni (Aachen), with baths, aqueducts, and sewage systems, linked to each other and to the rest of the world's most powerful empire by well-made roads. This border lasted little more than a century before crumbling under pressure from German raiders.

Yet when Martin Obschonka, a professor of economic psychology at Amsterdam University, started to map attitudes and traits

in modern Germany, he noticed something curious. It has been well established that the north and the south of the country tick quite differently. What Obschonka observed, though, was much more specific. "On several maps, a visible divide appeared roughly between Cologne and Munich," he said. This line appeared to hug the contours of the Limes Germanicus, the old imperial frontier.

Over the past few decades, there have been plenty of statistical analyses that examined the lingering effects of historical developments. ... Few, however, have tried to trace the evolution of health, culture, or habits of mind over the best part of two millennia. "Our study is somewhat unique in that it examines such a long timespan, particularly with such a psychology and culture focus," Obschonka said.

The researchers began with data on the wellbeing and personality traits of more than 100,000 Germans. They then mapped the findings on to 96 districts either side of the line. They also tried to

take account of other factors that could have influenced the course of each region's culture, including environmental phenomena such as soil fertility, sunshine hours, rivers, and outbreaks of plague. The team also considered proximity to coalfields, the French occupation during the Napoleonic wars, the Cold War split between East and West, and membership of the Hanseatic League – a Middle Ages trading alliance.

After all these tweaks, people on the Roman side of the line were still found to display significantly less neuroticism, as well as slightly higher levels of agreeableness and openness. They were, in other words, a little more easygoing and adaptive. They also tended to live longer and be marginally more satisfied with their health.

These traits had a particularly strong link to the density of Roman roads. The central theory of the paper, published in the journal 'Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology', is that the Romans left not only strong institutions and trade links but also benign attitudes towards things such as innovation and entrepreneurialism. ...

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*This article originally appeared in The Times, London.*

**0-1** ROMAN Römer(in); s.w.u. römisch — rule Herrschaft — wellbeing Wohlbefinden — it is commonplace es ist e-e Binsenweisheit — to assert behaupten — boundary; s.w.u. divide; frontier Grenze — legacy Erbe — flash in the pan (fig) Strohfeuer

**2** structured h.: beschaffen — to pacify befrieden — tribe Stamm — to cut one's losses (fig) e-r Sache ein Ende machen; h.: genug haben — fortification Befestigungsanlage — fort Kastell — ditch Graben — mouth Mündung — Danube Donau

**3** hostile h.: unwirtlich — desolation Ödnis — populated

bevölkert — to swill (coll) hinunterkippen — noble savage edle(r) Wilde(r) — to tailor schneidern — sophisticated elegant; hoch entwickelt — sewage system Kanalisation — to crumble bröckeln — raider Plünderer(-in)

**4-5** to map s.th. etw. auf e-r Karte abbilden — trait Eigenschaft — curious merkwürdig — to hug h.: folgen — contour Verlauf — imperial Reichs- — lingering bleibend — to trace nachzeichnen — habit of mind Denkweise — the best part der größte Teil — somewhat ziemlich

**6** finding Ergebnis — district Landkreis — course Verlauf — soil fertility Bodenfruchtbarkeit — plague Pest — proximity Nähe — coalfield Kohlerevier — split Spaltung — Hanseatic League Hanse — trading alliance Handelsbündnis

**7-8** tweaks Anpassungen; h.: Einflüsse — neuroticism Neurotizismus — agreeableness Umgänglichkeit — adaptive anpassungsfähig — marginally geringfügig — trade links Handelsverbindungen — benign freundlich; h.: positiv — entrepreneurialism Unternehmertum

*Continued from page 1*

Canadian businesses are looking to Carney to restore a sense of order to commerce with the United States. Trump's tariffs on Canadian goods have been a moving target, with the administration pulling back on some levies while applying new ones, with no sense of a coherent economic rationale. The result has been a halt to private sector investment in Canada, Holmes said. Carney should address that immediately, he said. "Capital is frozen and paralyzed watching the trade war play out and not knowing what the future is going to be," Holmes said. "He needs to inject certainty in that."

Carney's framing of his campaign around Trump's threats to Canada has elevated him to a global anti-Trump figure. He is the first major leader to be elected on an explicitly anti-Trump campaign since Trump's reelection. "As I've been warning for months, America wants our land, our resources, our water," Carney told supporters gathered in Ottawa, Canada's capital, in the early hours Tuesday to celebrate his victory. "President Trump is trying to break us so he can own us. That will never happen," he added as the crowd booed. Later on Tuesday, the two men spoke by phone, their offices said, and agreed to meet soon.

Carney's fiery rhetoric could

prove a problem if the two leaders do talk in person. Carney has said he wants to gain Trump's respect, while also being open to discussions about what the future relationship between the two countries on various issues, including trade and security, will look like.

"There is an appetite in the West to find an anti-Trump figure to take up the mantle of leader of the free world," said Stephen Wertheim, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "I think that's a hazardous proposition. The minute the media starts hyping a foreign leader as the hand of global anti-Trump resistance, that will put a target on that leader's back."

An early test of Carney's ability to manage dealing with Trump will take place when he hosts the summit of the Group of 7 industrialized economies leaders in Kananaskis, Alberta, in June. Trump is expected to attend and will find himself among America's closest allies, all of whom have been hit with U.S. tariffs. Carney, on the contrary, will be among friends, in his own backyard. He has a personal relationship with President Emmanuel Macron of France and Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain, and is seeking to negotiate a military spending deal with Ursula von der Leyen, the top European Union official.

It is unclear what, if anything, will be decided at the summit,

since global gatherings like these tend to be about coordinating policy at a higher level rather than yielding anything specific. Still, there is a large margin for error. ... Carney will need to closely stage-manage the event to try to prevent any unpleasantries.

"The G-7 leaders' summit in June will really shape the early assessment of his success," Holmes said. "This is what he campaigned on, that he can handle a very complex geopolitical international situation."

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**8** to look to s.o. auf jdn. setzen — to restore wiederherstellen — tariffs Zölle — to be a moving target (fig) s. ständig ändern — to pull back on s.th. etw. zurücknehmen — levies Abgaben — to apply h.: erheben — coherent schlüssig — rationale logisches Grundprinzip — to paralyze lähmen — to inject injizieren; h.: geben

**9-11** to frame formulieren — explicitly ausdrücklich — reelection Wiederwahl — resources Bodenschätze — to boo buhen — fiery scharf; hitzig — to take up the mantle (fig) die Führungsrolle übernehmen — endowment Stiftung — hazardous riskant — proposition Vorhaben — hand (fig) Akteur(in) — resistance Widerstand

**12-14** to host ausrichten — summit Gipfeltreffen — industrialized economy Industrienation — to negotiate verhandeln — military spending deal Abkommen über Militärausgaben — gathering Zus.kunft — to yield hervorbringen — margin for error Spielraum für Fehler — to stage-manage inszenieren — unpleasantry Unannehmlichkeit — assessment Bewertung

# Why some schools are rethinking 'college for all'

**EDUCATION** | The idea that every student should aim for a four-year college motivated a bipartisan movement for decades.  **Audio**

BY DANA GOLDSTEIN IN LYNN, MASS.

FOR THREE decades, “college for all” was an American rallying cry. The goal inspired a generation of educators, offered a north star to students, and united political figures from former President George W. Bush to Sen. Bernie Sanders. Thousands of new K-12 schools were founded to achieve this ambitious vision, often focused on guiding low-income students toward bachelor’s degrees.

Even after decades of bipartisan effort and billions of dollars spent, about 40% of students who start college never finish, often leaving with life-altering debt. Across the political spectrum, higher education institutions are less respected and trusted by the public, whether because of sticker shock, perceived left-wing bias, or doubts about their ability to prepare students for the job market.

In response, some high schools that once pushed nearly all students toward four-year colleges are now guiding teenagers toward a wider range of choices, including trade schools, apprenticeships, two-year degrees, or the military. Among them are schools that are part of KIPP, the nation’s largest charter school network.

For many years after KIPP’s founding in 1994, the network was known for its single-minded focus on getting low-income Black and Hispanic teenagers to and through four-year colleges. “College starts in kindergarten” was a KIPP mantra. Classrooms were named after the colleges their teachers attended. On senior “signing days,” students proudly marched across audito-



**A common area** celebrating the graduating class of 2025 at KIPP Academy Lynn.

rium stages, waving the banners of their future alma maters. But over the past five years, KIPP has been part of a national rethinking of college for all.

KIPP is “broadening the celebration” of what students can do and achieve after high school, said Shavar Jeffries, CEO of the KIPP Foundation, which supports 278 KIPP public schools across the country. And KIPP is not the only college-focused education player newly experimenting with career-centered learning.

Ten years ago, the Geneva-based International Baccalaureate Organization started a “career program” as an alternative to its traditional “diploma program,” which is well-known as a pathway to elite college admissions. The IB career option, while still small, has grown exponentially over the past five years, and now serves more than 8,000 American students.

The shifts can bring more than a little bit of discomfort for many highly educated educators, who are unlikely to forget the doors that their own college and graduate degrees opened.

Jeffries of KIPP, for example, is a graduate of Duke University and Columbia Law School. And young Americans with a bachelor’s degree earned a median salary of \$60,000 last year, compared with \$40,000 for those with just a high school diploma.

Jeffries acknowledged that some of KIPP’s moves have been influenced by trends in philanthropy and politics. Business leaders have shown a strong enthusiasm in recent years for alternatives to traditional college. Many politicians and wealthy donors to education causes like KIPP are concerned about student dropout rates and ballooning debt. They have also been influenced by famous tech executive dropouts, by their own personal distaste for campus left-wing activism, and by the anti-college populism of the Trump movement.

Jeffries said schools like KIPP’s are trying to walk a line between encouraging students to strive for a four-year degree and also introducing them to alternatives. “We have to be very, very careful, particularly for younger



**Ann Pyram**, a teacher, leading a seminar on planning for college and careers at KIPP Academy Lynn, Mass. | PHOTOS: Sophie Park/The New York Times

people of color,” Jeffries said, noting that many apprenticeship and job-training programs are expensive, and may not have a proven track record of placing students in well-paid jobs. While KIPP is enthusiastic about directing students toward what Jeffries called “credible” job-training programs, “the data is clear,” he said. “A college degree opens up more opportunities.”

At KIPP Academy Lynn, in a working-class corner of coastal Massachusetts, almost all students still consider four-year colleges, and about three-quarters enroll. But now, the conversation does not end there. In the fall of her senior year, Moriah Berry, 18, realized that her biggest fear, she said, was “being broke.” To avoid that fate, Moriah has been working with her teachers and counselors to create plans – and backup plans – for life after she graduates from high school.

Her big goal is an undergraduate degree in biochemistry or physics. But Moriah is also considering an accelerated, three-year bachelor’s degree from a private trade school, which would qualify her to work as a radiology technician. And because the \$56,000 annual tuition there could turn out to be prohibitive, even with aid, she is also looking at two-year programs that offer certification in the same field.

“I don’t want to have an outrageous amount of loans,” said Mo-

riah, who lives with her mother, a nurse. “I want to be really realistic.”

This school year, for the first time, all KIPP juniors and seniors across the country are enrolled in a two-year seminar called College Knowledge and Career Success. At KIPP Academy Lynn, juniors research career paths – orthodontist, CIA agent, software engineer. Teachers also work to demystify the college application and financial aid process, explaining basics like the difference between a grant and a loan. Students look critically at specific college and training programs, examining their graduation and job-placement rates.

During their senior year, students fill out applications, and then do financial planning for the years ahead. The work is pragmatic. KIPP students are overwhelmingly from low-income households, and often the first in their families who might go to college. They earn bachelor’s degrees at about double the rate of other low-income students nationally, according to a 2023 Mathematica study. While more than three-quarters of students who attended KIPP for middle and high school enrolled in college, only 40% graduated within five years. ...

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*This article originally appeared in The New York Times.*

**6-2** TO RETHINK überdenken; umdenken — bipartisan parteiübergreifend — **rallying cry** Parole — **educator** Pädagoge (-in) — **north star** (fig) Leitstern — **low-income** einkommensschwach — **life-altering** lebensverändernd — **higher education institution** Hochschuleinrichtung — **sticker shock** Preisschock — **perceived** wahrgenommen; vermeintlich — **left-wing bias** polit. linke Tendenz

**3-5** **trade school** Berufsschule — **apprenticeship** Berufsausbildung — **charter school** (US) staatl. finanzierte Schule in freier Trägerschaft — **single-minded** zielstrebig — **senior** Schüler(in) der 12. Klasse — **to sign s.o.** jdn. unter Vertrag nehmen — **auditorium** Aula — **alma mater** Universität — **to broaden** ausweiten — **career-centered learning** berufsbezogener Unterricht

**6-7** **pathway** Weg — **to grow exponentially** exponentiell wachsen — **shift** Wandel — **discomfort** Unbehagen — **graduate** Absolvent(in); s.w.u. **to graduate** e-n Abschluss machen — **median salary** durchschnitl. Gehalt

**8** **to acknowledge** einräumen — **business leaders** führende Persönlichkeiten aus der Unternehmenswelt — **donor** Geldgeber(in) — **student dropout rate** Abbrecherquote — **to balloon** (fig) explodieren — **tech executive** Spitzenmanager(in) der Tech-Branche — **distaste** Abneigung

**9-10** **to walk a line** (fig) auf e-m (schmalen) Grat wandern — **to strive for s.th.** etw. anstreben — **of color** nicht weiß — **job training** arbeitsnares und arbeitsintegriertes Training — **to have a proven track record to do** s. erwiesen haben zu tun — **credible**

zuverlässig — **coastal** an der Küste von — **to enroll** s. immatrikulieren — **broke** pleite — **counselor** Tutor(in)

**11** **undergraduate degree** Bachelorabschluss — **accelerated** beschleunigt; verkürzt — **radiology technician** medizinisch-technische(r) Radiologieassistent(in) — **tuition** Studiengebühr — **to be prohibitive** nicht zu bezahlen sein — **certification** Zertifizierung; Zulassung — **outrageous** unfassbar

**12-13** **junior** Schüler(in) der 11. Klasse — **orthodontist** Kieferorthopäde(-in) — **to demystify** (fig) verständlich machen — **grant** Zuschuss; Stipendium — **job placement** Arbeitsplatzvermittlung — **overwhelmingly** mit großer Mehrheit

# A surprising health benefit of drinking tea

**SCIENCE** | A new study found that tea leaves can naturally filter lead and other toxic contaminants from water.

BY AMUDALAT AJASA

1 TEA HAS LONG been among the most popular beverages in the world. People drink tea in the morning with breakfast, in between meals for an afternoon caffeine hit, and to relax before bed. Most research on tea has focused on the effects of caffeine, tea's nutritional value, or how it compares with coffee, but now scientists say that the stimulating beverage may provide a surprising health benefit: Your morning cup of tea could be removing dangerous contaminants from your water.

2 A new study published in 'ACS Food Science & Technology,' found that tea leaves naturally adsorb heavy metals, filtering out harmful water contaminants like lead, cadmium, or arsenic. The metals become trapped on the

surface of the tea leaves and can be removed by simply filtering out the leaves or tossing the tea bag.

3 "You're taking the metals out of the water with the tea, but you don't consume the tea leaves after, which is why it works," said Benjamin Shindel, the study's lead author, who at the time of the research was a PhD student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. As tea leaves release flavorful chemicals in the water, creating a tasty drink, they are just as effective at grabbing metals out of the water, Shindel said.

4 In the new study, researchers experimented with a variety of teas, brewing methods and steeping times, and they examined the difference between loose-leaf and bagged tea. And the recipe for the purest cup of tea depends on one

major factor: time. The longer the steep time, the more metal that's removed.... [Even] a few minutes can result in a moderate removal of metals, Shindel said.



| PHOTO: fcafotodigital/Getty Images

5 Researchers also examined different varieties of tea to determine whether they provided any extra benefits. Black and green bagged tea were tested, as were whole tea leaves, including green, oolong, white, and black teas.

Herbal teas were also tested for their ability to get metals to stick to the surface of the leaves. Most teas, including herbal teas, performed similarly – apart from chamomile flowers, which adsorbed metals poorly.

6 The type of tea bag mattered too.

Cellulose tea bags, a biodegradable and organic material derived from trees, were highly effective at sponging metals from water. Nylon tea bags, which can release billions of microplastics, did not perform well in the study, and cotton tea bags showed trivial adsorption capabilities....

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zen — flavorful aromatisch — tasty wohlgeschmeckend — brewing method Brühmethode — steeping time Ziehzeit — loose-leaf tea loser Tee — bagged ... im Beutel  
 5–6 herbal tea Kräutertee — chamomile flowers Kamillenblüten — poorly schlecht — biodegradable biologisch abbaubar — to derive from s.th. aus etw. gewinnen — to sponge aufsaugen

# A giant pothole plagued his commute. He put an upside-down statue in it.

**INFRASTRUCTURE** | James Coxall used his daughter's old jeans, shirts, and shoes to make it look like someone was stuck in a pothole.  **Audio**

BY KYLE MELNICK

1 JAMES COXALL'S strategy to raise awareness about a roughly four-inch-deep pothole in his English village involved children's jeans, colorful shoes, hand-me-down shirts, wood, and a brick. For more than a year, the 42-year-old carpenter said, the pothole in Castle Camps, a village in Cambridgeshire, had been a problem. Coxall said he drove by the pothole about six times per week and sometimes drove into it accidentally, causing a loud bang that Coxall feared could pop his Ford van's tires.

2 So Coxall took a pair of jeans that his 7-year-old had outgrown and stuffed them with wood slabs and old shirts, attached some shoes, and built an anchor to hold the invention upright in the water that had filled the pothole. The result: It appeared as though a small person was upside-down in the pothole, with only their pants and shoes visible.

3 Coxall thought his joke might draw some attention and prompt



The pothole on Haverhill Road in Castle Camps.

| PHOTO: James Coxall

Cambridgeshire to fix the pothole within a few months. Instead, pictures of the pants were shared across Britain on social media, and the county filled the pothole on Thursday.

4 He's the latest person to get creative when filling potholes, which have become common in recent years locally and across the Atlantic Ocean. A Chicago artist turns potholes into mosa-

ics, England residents in 2023 used potholes for miniature golf courses and children's toy displays, and Domino's Pizza even launched a marketing campaign in 2018 to fix potholes.

5 Cambridgeshire attempted to fix the Castle Camps pothole about nine months ago after residents flagged it, Coxall said, but it deepened again in the following weeks, prompting neighbors to report it again. The gap had recently widened to about eight feet long, he said....

6 Jonathan Kitley, a spokesman for the Cambridgeshire County Council, said in a statement to 'The Washington Post' that the council was aware of the pothole, which it went on to fix Thursday. Kitley did not respond to a question on whether Coxall's stunt had prompted the repair.

7 Coxall's wife, Katrina, drove by the pothole Thursday afternoon while it was being repaired and picked up the stuffed pair of jeans, which had been moved to the grass nearby. Coxall said he received dozens of messages from his neighbors thanking him. "They fixed the hole," Coxall said. "They just got another several million to do in Cambridgeshire."

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0–2 POTHOLE Schlagloch — to raise awareness about s.th.; s.w.u. to flag s.th. auf etw. aufmerksam machen — 4 inches ca. 10 cm — hand-me-down aufgetragen — carpenter Schreiner(in) — to pop platzen lassen — to outgrow s.th. aus etw. herauswachsen — wood slab

Holzscheibe — anchor Anker  
 3–7 to prompt veranlassen — county Grafschaft; s.w.u. county council Kreisverwaltung — miniature golf course Minigolfplatz — 8 feet ca. 2,4 m — spokesman Sprecher

## BOOK WORLD

# 'Dream Count' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

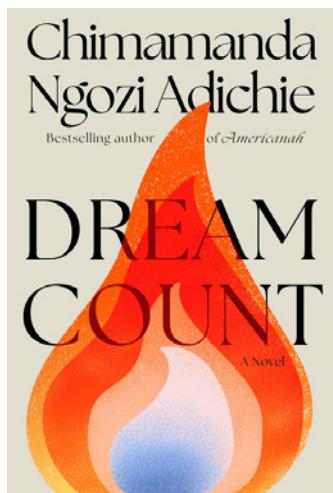


Training | Author and work

BY ANGELA AJAYI

**1** TWELVE YEARS ago, Nigerian American writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie published her third novel, 'Americanah,' which cemented her reputation as an international literary star. Since then, she has published an epistolary book on feminism, a delightful children's book, and a number of shorter pieces, perhaps the most memorable of them dealing with her profound grief after her father's death. But there's a new novel, finally.

**2** In the intervening years #MeToo, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Black Lives Matter movement all gained momentum. It should come as no surprise, then, that Adichie's new novel, 'Dream Count,' is brimming with identifi-



able themes, with her usual playfulness and percipience primed and in full swing. Unlike Adichie's first three novels, mostly plotted along conventional lines,

'Dream Count' is a collection of four linked stories, each devoted to a different female character. They're connected, somewhat loosely at first glance, by personal interaction and circumstance.

**3** In Maryland, Chiamaka, beautiful, rich, and a hopeless romantic, goes first and last. Her story establishes the novel's timeline (pandemic-ish?) and introduces the other characters, Zikora, Kadiatou, and Omelogor, whose lives will come into sharper focus later. Armed with the dream of becoming a Nigerian travel writer and with an American boyfriend who is dismissive and pretentiously liberal-minded, Chiamaka is a walking commentary on our current preoccupation with travel and leftist politics.

**4** Here, Adichie is amusing us while mocking her characters. But she also is exasperated by many matters at hand, as zingers fly left and right, making for some awkward encounters. Chiamaka's story revolves around men and desire. It's who she dates and has dated, who she has broken up with and why, and ultimately, what it means that, at 44, she remains unmarried and childless. . . .

**5** Zikora's story follows her close friend Chiamaka's. Zikora is a successful Nigerian lawyer in Washington D.C. Her engrossing section opens, hot and traumatic, in a delivery room, with her mother sitting coolly by her side. Zikora, too, is unmarried, and the father of her child has disappeared. Where does she go from here? For both Zikora and Chiamaka, the odds of fulfillment, at least in romance and love, seem slim.

**6** No other character in the novel is more vulnerable — or more exquisitely rendered — than Kadiatou. Born to a loving family in Guinea, West Africa, she suffers one loss after another until, by the miraculous stroke of a pen, she and her daughter are

granted asylum in America. Her life is upended, though, when she is assaulted by a VIP guest at a Washington D.C. hotel, where she works as a maid. Caught in a whirlpool of media assaults and incredulous claims, she fights to come up for air while the other characters rally to help her.

**7** Omelogor is Chiamaka's cousin and every corrupt Nigerian man's nightmare. An independent banker living mainly in Abuja, she is cerebral, bold, and not afraid to go against the grain.

**8** In the end, all these women's lives are intertwined and shaped, try as they might to escape them, by the options that society offers or doesn't offer. This is hardly new feminist ground for Adichie. But in 'Dream Count,' she ups the ante slowly with intense, brilliant care — the needle moving forward an inch or two and giving us reason to believe in a better future.

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 **Dream Count' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 400 pages, is published by Knopf, ISBN 978-0593802724.**

**0-2** EPISTOLARY in Briefform — in the intervening years in den Jahren dazwischen — to gain momentum (fig) in Fahrt kommen — to brim with s.th. voll von etw. sein — identifiable erkennbar — playfulness Verspieltheit — percipience Scharfsinn — primed bereit — in full swing (fig) auf Hochtouren — plotted along conventional lines konventionell aufgebaut — devoted gewidmet — somewhat etwas

**3** pandemic-ish ungefähr zur Zeit der Pandemie — to come into sharper focus mehr in den Mittelpunkt rücken — armed (fig) gerüstet — dismissive abschätzig — pretentiously auf angeberische Weise — liberal-minded liberal eingestellt — walking commentary wandelnder Kommentar — preoccupa-

tion with Fixierung auf — leftist links

**4** to mock s. lustig machen über — to be exasperated by s.th. s. über etw. ärgern — matters at hand aktuelle Themen — zinger (AE, coll) geistreiche Bemerkung — to fly left and right (fig) von allen Seiten kommen — to make for sorgen für — to revolve around s. drehen um — desire Verlangen — ultimately letztlich

**5** engrossing fesselnd — delivery room Kreißsaal — odds Chancen — fulfillment Erfüllung — slim gering

**6** vulnerable verletzlich — exquisitely wunderschön; sensibel — to render zeichnen — miraculous wundersam — stroke of a pen Federstrich — to grant s.o. asylum jdm. Asyl gewähren

— to upend auf den Kopf stellen — to assault vergewaltigen; s.w.u. assault Übergriff — to work as a maid im Housekeeping arbeiten — whirlpool Strudel — incredulous ungläubig — to come up for air (fig) wieder zu Atem kommen — to rally s. zus. scharen

**7-8** cerebral intelligent; kopflastig — bold unerschrocken; forsch — to go against the grain (fig) gegen den Strom schwimmen — intertwined miteinander verflochten — try as they might so sehr sie sich auch bemühen — new ground (fig) Novum — to up the ante (fig) noch e-n draufsetzen — the needle moving forward an inch (fig) kleine Fortschritte sind erkennbar

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE | BY KATRIN GÜNTHER

All the words are in the articles on pages 14 and 15.

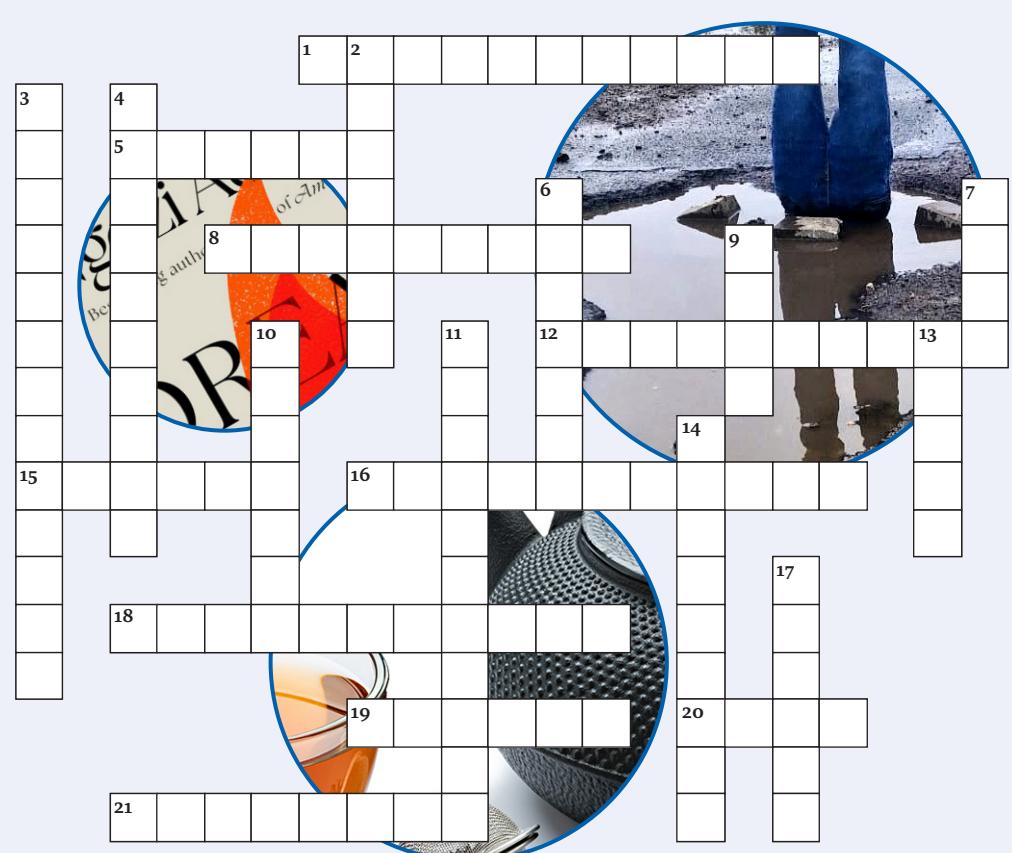
Solution on page 16.

## Across

- A pollutant (Drinking tea)
- To cause; to inspire (Pothole)
- A vortex or maelstrom (Book world)
- Amazing; astonishing (Book world)
- To obtain (Drinking tea)
- Disbelieving; skeptical (Book world)
- Twisted together or closely connected (Book world)
- A witty remark (Book world)
- To warn or tell people about s.th. (Pothole)
- A drink (Drinking tea)

## Down

- To grow too big for s.th. (Pothole)
- Able to decay naturally and in a way that is not harmful (Drinking tea)
- Involving or consisting of letter writing (Book world)
- A regular journey between work and home (Pothole)
- To throw (Drinking tea)
- To laugh at (Book world)
- To discharge (Drinking tea)
- Insight; awareness (Book world)
- To turn upside down (Book world)
- Delicious (Drinking tea)
- A picture made using small pieces of colored stone or glass (Pothole)





| PHOTO: Miodrag Ignjatovic/Getty Images

## The King defends free press as a 'cornerstone of democracy'

### MEDIA

BY ALEX FARBER

THE KING has defended the press as a "cornerstone of our democracy" in a statement released before Buckingham Palace hosts a reception for local journalists from around the UK. Charles said that the role played by regional media has become increasingly crucial "in these uncertain times" as he and the Queen prepared to host 400 guests from various news organisations to show support for local journalism. "A free media is one that will and does make mistakes," the King said. "But at its best, it is a cornerstone of our democracy. It is in everyone's interests that you should succeed. For without a thriving and financially robust regional media, we would all be the poorer."

Charles, who is an honorary life member of the London Press Club, recalled a speech he gave in 2002 to mark 300 years since the first issue of Britain's first daily national newspaper, the 'Daily Courant'. "Two decades on, when too much focus is given to that which divides us, that role for your whole industry is more important than ever – and it starts from the ground up, at local level, in your hands", he said.

"Your reporting, and the work of all those who support you, helps amplify and reaffirm the rights and responsibilities we all share. It shines a light in dark corners, exposing injustice and wrongdoing. Above all, it helps strengthen our communities, in times of joy and at moments of sorrow." The King recognised that many outlets have adapted to a changed media landscape that has been affected by "commercial

pressures and changing technologies". This included finding ways to engage audiences in "new and creative" ways.

Camilla is patron of the Journalists' Charity as well as the Guild of St Bride's, which is based at St Bride's Church on Fleet Street and is otherwise known as the journalists' church.

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**0-2** CORNERSTONE Grundpfeiler — reception Empfang — crucial wichtig — thriving florierend — honorary life member Ehrenmitglied auf Lebenszeit — to recall erinnern an — industry Branche

**3-4** reporting Berichterstattung — to amplify stärken

### SOLUTION

**Page 15 | Across** 1 CONTAMINANT • 5 PROMPT • 8 WHIRLPOOL • 12 MIRACULOUS  
15 DERIVE • 16 INCREDULOUS • 18 INTERTWINED • 19 ZINGER • 20 FLAG  
21 BEVERAGE  
**Down** 2 OUTGROW • 3 BIODEGRADABLE • 4 EPISTOLARY • 6 COMMUTE • 7 TOSS  
9 MOCK • 10 RELEASE • 11 PERCIPIENCE • 13 UPEND • 14 FLAVORFUL • 17 MOSAIC

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**to tread a diplomatic tightrope** (fig) einen diplomatischen Drahtseilakt vollführen

page 6

**to alienate** verprellen

page 10

**flash in the pan** (fig) Strohfeuer

page 12

 Die nächste Ausgabe erscheint am 13. Juni 2025.

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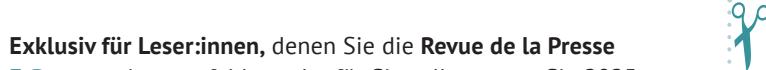
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