

Getting a Grasp of the World Around Us

February 27, 2026 : Summary

I. WORLD POLITICS

The Economist, Leader (Pay Wall)

The threat of war in Iran : Donald Trump is at risk of launching a war without purpose

A conflict with Iran without a clear objective would be recklessly dangerous

The Economist (Pay Wall)

Champion of the umma : Who speaks for the Muslim world?

There are many contenders, but Turkey's president leads the pack

The New York Times

'Time Is Not on Russia's Side', by David French

Four long years. That's how long Ukraine has been fighting for its life against Russia.

Le Figaro

Guerre en Ukraine : comment changer la donne face au péril russe ?

GRAND ENTRETIEN - La présidente de la Banque européenne de reconstruction et de développement, Odile Renaud-Basso, et l'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères d'Ukraine Dmytro Kouleba soulignent l'urgence et l'intérêt central d'une alliance militaire mutuellement bénéfique entre l'Europe et l'Ukraine.

The Economist, Leader (Pay Wall)

Digging for victory : America's dangerous pursuit of critical-mineral dominance

With a more focused approach, it could break China's chokehold

The Times of Israel

Trump broke the aid machine. Good. Now build one that works.

The establishment was horrified, but the US president had a point: Aid should not finance the wars it's supposed to help stop

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III. ECONOMICS

The Economist (Pay Wall)

Auto focus : Why one corner of Europe's car industry is still booming

The world's most car-intensive economy draws plenty of investment, for now

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Book Review

Arnis Vilks Sachbuch: Wie zwei Worte von Adam Smith die Welt eroberten

Arnis Vilks verfolgt die Karriere von Adam Smiths Metapher der „unsichtbaren Hand“ von Glasgow bis nach Chicago. Erst wurde sie mathematisch verfeinert, dann politisch radikalisiert – mit verheerenden Folgen.

Arnis Vilks: „Im Griff der unsichtbaren Hand“. Mythos, Mathematik und Macher der Märkte. Felix Meiner Verlag, Hamburg 2025. 158 S., br., 16,90 €.

IV. POLITICS AND SOCIETY

The Wall Street Journal (Pay Wall)

Letting People Suffer Is the Opposite of Compassion

And it isn't fascist to want safe and functional cities.

The European Conservative

“What is happening in Afghanistan is gender apartheid. We must recognize that this is a crime against humanity”—Activist Marzieh Hamidi

“The Taliban were terrorists yesterday, they are terrorists today, and they will be terrorists tomorrow. There is no peace with terrorists.”

Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Der Verfassungsschutz unterliegt der AfD im Eilverfahren. Das ist für die Partei mehr als nur ein Etappensieg

Das Verwaltungsgericht Köln gab der AfD vorläufig recht. Bis zu einer finalen Entscheidung darf der deutsche Inlandgeheimdienst die Rechtspartei nicht als gesichert extremistisch bezeichnen. Mehr als das muss ihn allerdings die Begründung beunruhigen.

V. TECHNOLOGY

The New York Times

I Thought I Understood A.I. Companies. I Couldn't Have Been More Wrong.

By Jason Furman, a contributing Opinion writer, was the chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2013 to 2017.

The Wall Street Journal (Pay Wall)

What AI Executives Tell Their Own Kids About the Jobs of the Future

We asked Anthropic's Daniela Amodei and other AI luminaries about what they advise their own children on education and careers in an AI-driven world

VI. HISTORY

The Economist, Book Review (Pay Wall)

Red in tooth and claw : How China's Communist Party seized power in 1949

Violence, terror and Soviet help mattered more than popularity

Red Dawn Over China. By Frank Dikötter. Bloomsbury Publishing; 384 pages; \$33 and £25

The Economist, Book Review (Pay Wall)

The lucky ones : Life after escaping from Nazi Germany: a family's story

Sir Michael Moritz's brilliant memoir traces his parents' journey and his own

Ausländer: One Family's Story of Escape and Exile. By Michael Moritz. Profile Books; 320 pages; £20. To be published in America by Pegasus Books in September; \$29.95

VII. CULTURE

The New York Times

'Scream 7' Review: It's Hard to Keep a Good Ghoul Down

Ghostface has returned amid a light fog of nostalgia in this reunion for some of the franchise's most terrified faces, including Neve Campbell's.

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Book Review

«Weissrussland ist ein Folterlabor», sagt Sasha Filipenko

Der weissrussische Bestsellerautor hat mit «Die Elefanten» eine komisch-düstere Parabel über den Umgang mit politischer Repression geschrieben. Gespräch mit einem Unermüdlichen.

Sasha Filipenko: Die Elefanten. Diogenes, Zürich 2026. 256 S., Fr. 35.–.