

The Aukus ruckus, European elections and Bond's new star

The announcement of a new trilateral defence pact between the US, UK and Australia last week seemed to take everyone by surprise - not least France, left red-faced after a multibillion-dollar submarine contract with Australia was ripped up. But amid the fallout, the reaction of China - whose Indo-Pacific military build-up is widely assumed to be behind the new Aukus alliance - was strangely muted. In our cover story this week, Helen Davidson examines regional fears over China, Patrick Wintour dissects the Aukus alliance and Rana Mitter explains why it signals an emerging new global order.

The big story Page 10 →

The coming days see elections of note in two European nations large and small, and to quite different ends. In Germany, federal elections will determine chancellor Angela Merkel's successor, potentially setting Europe's economic powerhouse on a new political path. In tiny San Marino, a referendum could lead to abortion being decriminalised for the first time since 1865. We take the temperature in both countries, where opinions are sharply divided.

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Whatever happened to Occupy Wall Street, the anti-capitalist movement that briefly threatened to rock the global economic system? Ten years on, the Observer's Andrew Anthony speaks to those behind the camps in New York's Zuccotti Park.

Then, in our Culture pages, don't miss the interview with Lashana Lynch, star of the much anticipated Bond movie.

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On the cover

Amid rising tensions over the new Aukus defence alliance, Japan's defence minister has warned of China's expanding military presence in the Indo-Pacific region. "China is strengthening its military power both in terms of quantity and quality, and rapidly improving its operational capability," Nobuo Kishi said.

Illustration: Guardian Design

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