

# Threat of US civil war, unrest in Kazakhstan and Deepwater justice

**It couldn't happen again ... could it?** Reflections on last year's 6 January Capitol riot in the US - amid a trenchantly divided political landscape between Democrats and Republicans - have led many observers to wonder whether the country could seriously be on the path to another civil war. Washington bureau chief David Smith asks the experts, while columnist Jonathan Freedland ponders the sinister influence of Donald Trump and a make-or-break year for democracy in the US.

**The big story** [Page 10](#) →

**Startling unrest in Kazakhstan last week** led to hundreds of people being killed and several thousand detained by authorities. An information blackout in the authoritarian central Asian nation meant that much remained unclear about the circumstances. But, as Shaun Walker and Peter Leonard write, it was probably born from frustrations felt by millions living in voiceless poverty while elites continue to siphon away profits from the country's natural wealth.

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**The Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in 2010** resulted in one of the worst environmental disasters. Much of the focus since then has been on those responsible and the damage caused, but what of those workers who survived? Eyal Press follows one man's quest for justice.

**A dirty job** [Page 34](#) →

**Olly Alexander was already a successful pop star** before the award-winning TV drama *It's a Sin* made his name as an actor. Rebecca Nicholson hears how he survived a difficult lockdown, and why his next career move will be a return to music.

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## On the cover

"The US flag really lends itself to being adapted to visual metaphors because it's so iconic," says illustrator Nathalie Lees. "By incorporating the Republican and Democrat logos into the shredded flag, we hopefully came up with a powerful illustrative representation of the dangerous schism between the two parties." *Illustration: Nathalie Lees*