

Macron's challenge, life on the frontline and a full English lockdown

It was not so much yes to Emmanuel Macron as no to Marine Le Pen but, ultimately, the French election delivered the result that political moderates across Europe had desperately hoped for. As France's president begins a second term, however, the problems facing him are myriad; he must reunite a fractured nation and help bolster the EU as an economic force that can hold its own in the changing global power struggle between China and the US. Angelique Chrisafis and Jon Henley report from Paris, while columnist Timothy Garton Ash outlines Macron's challenges on the world stage.

The big story [Page 10](#) →

As the Ukraine war enters a new phase, Isobel Koshiw meets Ukrainian troops on the southern front, who talk of the harsh reality of life there. Analyst Jack Watling reflects on the futility of Russia's siege on Mariupol, while Luke Harding reveals a bizarre move to restore old Soviet iconography in Russian-occupied areas.

There's also a longer report on social media influencers in Russia and how younger people there are coming to terms with the war amid severe information restrictions.

Spotlight [Page 15](#) →; **Under the influence** [Page 34](#) →

There are no finer chroniclers of the English than the writer and actor Alan Bennett. As extracts from his lockdown diaries reveal, advancing years have in no way diminished his talent for spotting glory in the mundane.

Then, in Culture, the sculptor Antony Gormley explains the shift in form and scale for his two major new works.

Alan Bennett's lockdown [Page 40](#) →

Off the scale [Page 51](#) →



On the cover In his second term, Emmanuel Macron is tasked not only with reuniting a divided France, but also the EU. As Timothy Garton Ash writes: "I have never seen a human being with more drive and self-belief. But he can often seem arrogant, Jupiterian, neo-Napoleonic ... Macron's 'we' all too often sounds like the royal we, meaning me. To adapt Louis XIV: 'L'Europe, c'est moi.'" *Photograph: Benoit Tessier/Reuters*



4-14	GLOBAL REPORT <i>Headlines from the last seven days</i>
10	France Macron returned, with reservations
15-33	SPOTLIGHT <i>In-depth reporting and analysis</i>
15	Ukraine Fighters on the southern frontline
18	Russia Back to the USSR
20	Eyewitness Carnival returns to Rio
22	UK A tale of two local elections
24	Environment Seaweed's transformative power
27	French Polynesia Kicked off the beach
30	Space Rubbish in orbit
33	US A Democratic deficit?
34-44	FEATURES <i>Long reads, interviews and essays</i>
34	How Ukraine invasion hit Russian influencers <i>By Diyora Shadijanova</i>
40	Home thoughts on the pandemic <i>By Alan Bennett</i>
45-50	OPINION
45	Nick Cohen The anti-Russian colonials
47	Gaby Hinsliff #MeToo in Westminster? Ask Angela Rayner
48	Larry Elliott We need local solutions
51-59	CULTURE <i>TV, film, music, theatre, art, architecture & more</i>
51	Art Antony Gormley's new supersized work
55	TV The appeal of a video game adaptation
57	Books Time travel drama
60-63	REGULARS <i>Lifestyle, food, puzzles and chess</i>

Join the community
Twitter: @guardianweekly
facebook.com/guardianweekly
Instagram: @guardian

SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS:
MATT BLEASE