



# A provocative visit, looming bill rises fuel anger and a life lesson

**Relations between Beijing and Washington tumbled to a new low last week when US House speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan.** The decision to include Taipei in her trip to the wider region, termed “reckless” by her critics at home and a “provocation” by China, had immediate repercussions. We look at China’s military response, analyse her motivation for the trip and explore whether targets on lowering greenhouse gas emissions can survive when the world’s biggest economic powerhouses, and biggest emitters of CO2, are at loggerheads.

**The big story** *Page 10* →

**The cost of living crisis is preoccupying many in the UK as prices for domestic fuel look set to cost the average household more than \$4,000 a year.** With Boris Johnson keeping a low profile in his last month as prime minister and the two candidates vying to succeed him as Conservative leader full of campaigning hot air but offering little concrete hope to the country, a former prime minister is calling for an emergency budget to address the pending crisis. Some ordinary consumers, however, have come to the decision that the only way to survive this winter is not to pay their energy bills at all.

**Spotlight** *Page 22* →

**Like many of us who consider ourselves smart enough, Alec Wilkinson struggled with maths at school.** But aged 65 he confronted his fear of numbers and decided to see if he could finally perform basic operations in algebra, geometry and calculus. As he discovers in our feature, learning how to learn solves a large part of the problem.

**Do the math** *Page 40* →



## On the cover

If anyone had doubted China’s policy towards Taiwan, the island it regards as a breakaway province, then Beijing blew that notion away. Nancy Pelosi’s visit to the territory may have been intended to demonstrate US solidarity with Taipei but, as our illustration underlines, China has geography and military muscle on its side.

*Illustration: Sam Green*



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