

# *Bibi bounces back, China's secret stations and the rise of manga*

**Benjamin Netanyahu is nothing if not a fighter.** Having been ousted as Israel's prime minister a year ago by an alliance of political foes and now embroiled in a corruption trial (he denies all charges), one might have thought the 73-year-old's career was up. But no: after Israel's fifth election in four years, he is poised to return to power - this time at the head of the most extreme rightwing coalition the country has ever seen.

Jerusalem correspondent Bethan McKernan charts the fall and rise of "King Bibi" and what his Faustian-looking pact with the ultra-religious right might mean, as well as the devastating blow defeat has dealt to Israel's Arab-supporting and leftwing parties.

**The big story** *Page 12* →

**This week's Guardian Weekly went to press too soon for us to include news of the US midterm elections** - there'll be plenty of reflection on that story in the next edition. Instead, Leyland Cecco reports from Canada, where there are claims China is operating a chain of clandestine police stations to keep tabs on its diaspora.

**Spotlight** *Page 32* →

**The International Monetary Fund was established as a financial safety net for nations in need.** But, amid a string of economic crises from Sri Lanka to the UK, has the world's lender of last resort been over-reaching its remit, asks Jamie Martin.

Also in features, we look at how the Japanese comic art of manga achieved worldwide popularity. And, as Netflix's royal TV drama *The Crown* returns, Mark Lawson wonders if King Charles will not be amused by series five's controversial plotlines.

**Features** *From page 34* →



**On the cover**

Benjamin Netanyahu may have shown remarkable political staying power, but his return to power in Israel makes no difference to Palestinians, argues Yara Hawari: "The Israeli regime is built on their oppression. At the end of the day, Palestinians don't want different prison guards. They want to break free of the prison." *Photograph: Christian Marquardt/Getty*



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