

**INSIDE: A TEN-PAGE SPECIAL REPORT ON VIDEO GAMES**

# The Economist

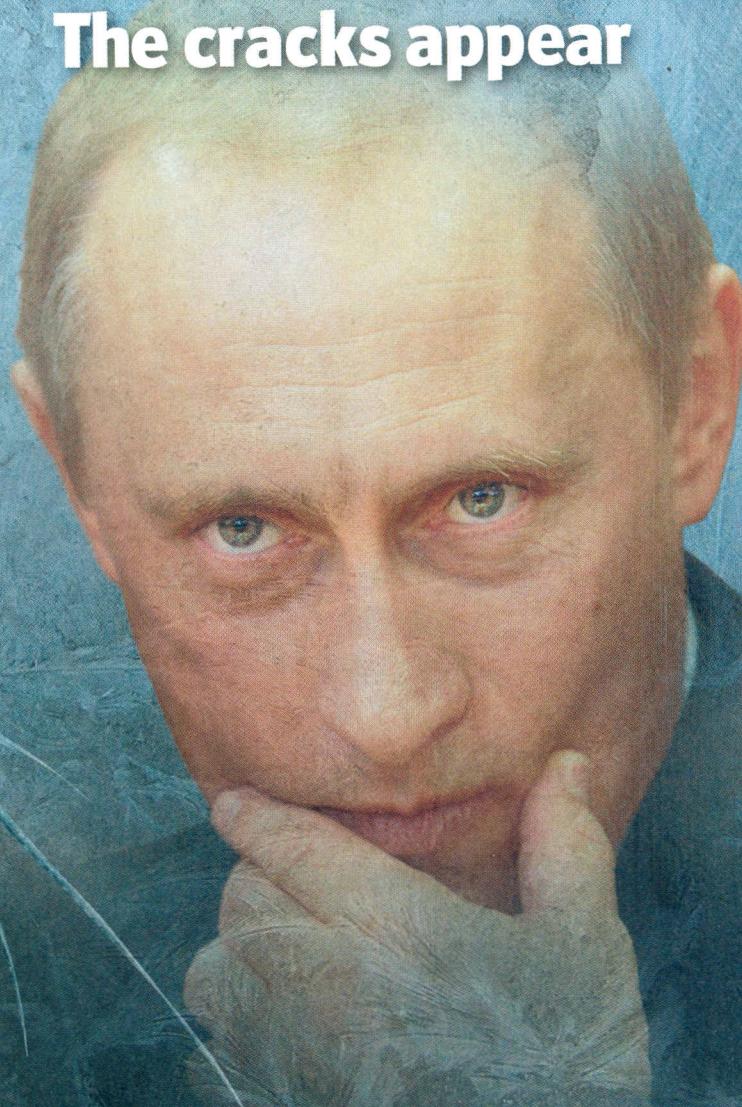
From Arab spring to Islamist winter  
Barack Obama's new square deal  
The flaws in the Merkozy plan  
Ten years of China in the WTO  
The best books of 2011

DECEMBER 10TH-16TH 2011

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# Putin's Russia

## The cracks appear





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The cracks appear in Vladimir Putin's Russia: leader, page 13. Routine election fraud turns into full-scale protest, page 55. The upheavals in Russia show how hard it is, 20 years after the system collapsed, for the country to put away its Soviet past, pages 27-30

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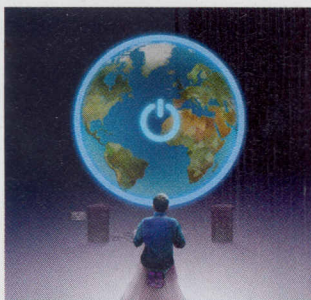
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