

## 1 Reading for May 2

### 2 What's new: Macron in the United States: a visit to double edged

3 Editorial. During his State visit, Macron is shown in turn partner with Trump and then  
4 bite against the policy of the American president in the face of Congress.

5 There are the gestures, and then there is the background. In diplomacy, the two have a sense, but the first  
6 not

7 can prevail over the second. This is what has been feared, during the first two days of  
8 this very media state president Emmanuel Macron in the United States, visit from 23 to the  
9 25 April. On the third day, the head of french State balancing the Congressional

10 American with a massive, and frank speech on the edge of brutality, in the form of advocacy for  
11 all values strides walk by his host, president Donald Trump.

12 M. Macron would have been wrong to deprive recalled that, on the same day, April 25, 1960, its more  
13 illustrious predecessor, general de Gaulle, spoke to the same forum: c ' was a way

14 to regain height. General de Gaulle had to caller, in Washington, a

15 another general, Dwight Eisenhower. The two presidents did not take by the hand, don't be  
16 were not the Kiss, did not mine of dusting the lapel of l ' another in

17 yours: ' *He has to . ' it's perfect.* " They not only tweeting. It was, d'a way, more

18 simple. Too much to want to play on the paradox of its proximity with Donald Trump, Emmanuel  
19 Macron is caught in his own trap: some of the images that will remain of this visit are not  
20 particularly in his honor.

21 European values

22 Front Congress, Mr. Macron has sought to raise the debate. In line with the speech

23 a week earlier in front of the Parliament in Strasbourg, the french president landed

24 in Herald of European, values that appear more and more like an alternative vision

25 than trying d ' impose president Trump in a fractured world. In the face of the new

26 American unilateralism, M. Macron defended multilateralism and its institutions, created by the

27 United States. In the face of protectionism, he pleaded for open trade. Facing the

28 nationalism and "fascination for hard power", he referred to democracy and values

29 progressive. Finally, he has deployed his energy to expose American politicians of the two

30 Chambers to listen to it, the reasons why the United States

31 had to join the Paris climate agreement and do not throw away the nuclear deal

32 Iranian.

33 Remove from these three days? Traditionally, a State visit is primarily a

34 opportunity political and Protocol stressed the links between both countries, not a time of

35 negotiation arduous and signing agreements. So it was excessive to expect that Mr. Macron

to return from Washington with, in your pocket, the solution to the puzzle of agreement with Iran. This  
visit

36 offered the opportunity to the president of the french to assert a bit more about the world as stage  
37 the main Defender, on behalf of Europe, an international order that is threatened, and he grabbed.  
38 On the Iran, he had the insight to recognize that Mr. Trump would probably not give up to his  
39 campaign promise to leave the agreement concluded in 2015 by Barack Obama. But both  
40 Presidents seem to have advanced on the basis of the work done by European diplomats  
41 since January, with their American colleagues, to find a way out of this impasse. The  
42 Chancellor Angela Merkel, expected Friday in Washington, will continue this effort.  
43

#### **Culture: overpopulation: entire cities... 44 underground?**

45

46 With a world population estimated at 9.5 billion in 2050, which a vast majority live  
47 in the city, the problem of urban overcrowding became a critical issue. And if you frequented the  
basement

48 of megacities?

49 In most major cities of the world, the spaces underground, traditionally vested  
50 to the subway lines, pipes, parks and electrical networks, are little - or even  
51 not at all - operated . Yet, the basement is a large reservoir of blank spaces suitable  
52 to host many infrastructures, by reducing all the urban fabric surface. It is  
53 possible to build parks, shopping centers, offices and even homes.

54 Around the world, be it in Europe, America or Asia, projects are  
55 already in place or under development, in order to multiply the available urban space.

56 Extension of the scope of the city

57 Doing sport, shopping or working thirty meters below ground, is that the inhabitants  
58 Helsinki will soon be able to. In the Finnish capital, the idea of exploiting the basement not  
59 not date from yesterday. In the 1960s, during the cold war, an architectural program at  
60 build a second Helsinki under the surface was developed, initially for the purpose of  
61 protect residents in case of attack of the Russian enemy. The tunnels and the premises built to  
62 then are today listed, modernized and especially extended by architects in order to  
63 unclog the city down. First world, the municipality has even published a plan  
64 detailed underground infrastructure Helsinki, as if it were a city full.

65 By 2020, these are nearly 400 local, representing a volume of 9 million m<sup>3</sup>, which will  
66 be deployed on several levels, between 20 and 80 meters under the sea level

67 creating a true urban Yarrow carved in the rock. There are thirty car parks, one  
68 Olympic swimming pool, an ice rink, a track of ice hockey, a stage dedicated to athletics, a  
69 wide Mall, a complex of offices but also of very many corridors and

70 tunnels so that the inhabitants can move from one point to another of the city in being protected  
71 of the freezing temperatures in winter.

72 Also the fact that all these facilities encombreront over the surface, the basement will also  
73 in turn to bring an original response to the problems of traffic jams. Thanks to its very  
74 many tunnels, Helsinki can be almost entirely supplied by underneath, in  
75 significantly reducing vehicular traffic above. Indeed, they are several thousand  
76 trucks and delivery vehicles circulating daily in its streets, which will be able to  
77 make their journeys through the basement. With one hand the promise of a city less  
78 dense in the open air, the underground Helsinki will have, on the other side, the ability to accommodate  
600,000  
79 people in brand new infrastructure, at the forefront of innovation, which is as much as its  
80 current population. An invitation to live underground. The Finnish capital's train  
81 of triumph against the odds to operate effectively and intelligently his basement to cram all that  
82 barely, since too long, held in the town. The municipality has achieved, with one step ahead  
83 in Europe, that underground architecture was a solution for the future with multiple  
84 advantages, as summarized by Bruno Barrocca, Planner specialist of the question: ' space .  
85 underground has many qualities natural. He's is tempered, protected from the many hazards  
climate, be it wind, rain, heat, or snow, and 86 it is generally  
87 more resistant to earthquakes. It allows to densify the city from below by adding spaces  
88 without increasing the height of the buildings. He thus limiting urban sprawl by preserving land  
89 " farm and ensuring a better quality of life for city dwellers."  
90 From the top down  
91 But the Finnish capital is not the only major city to have made that bet. On the other side of  
92 Atlantic, Montreal splits also in depth. Through an underground network of thirty93  
two kilometers of tunnels, which covers the whole of the urban fabric, Montrealers can  
94 do a large majority of their pedestrian travel underground. Here, the project, that the  
95 municipality has developed in 1962, aims to connect all strategic buildings from the bottom  
96 city - governments, banks, businesses, universities, malls, hotels - so  
97 that a large number of services.  
98 Over the years, these are hundreds of stores, and many restaurants, which are  
99 who settled in these galleries, thus creating the largest mall in the world. We  
100 estimated that 12% of all businesses in Montreal are underground. A real  
101 inner city which is attended by 183 million people annually.  
102 Always to the Canada, Toronto and Calgary are not left with respectively 28 and  
103 fifteen kilometers of tunnels and shopping malls. This duplication of large cities to  
104 the lower benefits undeniably to the inhabitants, who have greater access to a number of services,  
105 and meeting a great success on all sites where the initiatives of this kind have been  
106 developed. Bruno Barrocca develops: 'underground spaces complete living spaces. At  
107 Montreal, there are streets, leisure areas, commercial centres... In New York, one

108 urban park there will be soon achieved. In other territories, occasionally, we can  
109 find housing but also universities like Minneapolis where, on campus  
110 deemed too crowded, it was decided to construct a building incorporating many spaces  
111 " underground with a library, the executive offices, workshops...". Some projects  
112 architectural are still more innovative, prefiguring what will be the construction  
113 underground of the future, at the time of the 'smart cities' hyperconnectees and eco-responsible.  
114 The city of tomorrow  
115 While the verticality is an architectural trend, with buildings more  
116 UPS to increase the number of homes available, the Mexican architectural firm  
117 "BNKR Arquitectura" has designed the first reverse, skyscraper unfolding underground over 300  
118 meters of depth, along its sixty-five floors, taking root in the ground. Named  
119 'Eathscraper', this futuristic, invisible from the surface, has been designed to not  
120 visually distort the rich architectural heritage of Mexico. But the most interesting is  
121 not there. Whereas the urban farms appear as a relevant solution for the  
122 cities to implement local and respectful of the environment, agriculture and  
123 buildings of this type, which can spread over very large areas, underground  
124 will allow to grow fruits and vegetables more efficiently and in very large quantities.  
125 Bruno Barroca precisely on this point that ' underground, as a temperate environment, allows, with .  
126 " modern techniques, to recover the heat in its environment".  
It is a natural place to UA, which does not require 127 not wasting  
128 a lot of energy to grow, and thus limiting pollution. In fact, the operation of the basement  
129 appears as an effective solution to promote the short circuit an essential link of the eco 130  
responsibility for the cities of tomorrow.  
131 In Paris, Anne Hidalgo has, as part of the recently opened ' reinvent Paris ', call  
132 "The cave", an underground farm in the heart of the city, with an area of 2,000 m2. Sound  
133 goal is to produce annually 50 tons of mushrooms, 300 tons of endives, of  
134 herbs, seeds germinated to supply the markets of the North of Paris, but  
135 also salads, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, strawberries, and peppers...  
136 And ideas along the same lines proliferate, including the mushroom beds as well as  
137 wine project, which will all take shape under the surface of the ground in the capital.  
138 Term, these infrastructures, which have thousands of blank square meters to be able to settle,  
139 will play an important role in root locally the production of food in the city  
140 Light and will participate in making a "green" capital of Paris But other projects will still  
141 further. Marion Waller, Advisor in urban planning at Paris City Hall, said to us: ' in the .  
142 framework of "Reinventing the city", some projects proposed logistical solutions of proximity,  
143 with a view to create new parks of electric vehicle charging underground." By  
144 burying the terminals, it would indeed be possible to greatly increase the number and

145 promote the use of electric cars.

146 In all major cities of the world, operating from the basement appears more and more  
147 as a necessity. Long considered the places whose only function was to  
148 hide all that we didn't see in the city, they are today of interest for  
149 municipalities. To keep the city of tomorrow livable, despite the inevitable increase of its  
150 population, and be respectful of the environment, architects and urban planners vie  
151 imagination to build these large untapped areas. If we live maybe not  
152 tomorrow at thirty meters below ground, in buildings deprived of daylight, we can  
153 certainly do our shopping, playing sports or work. It is a part of our lives  
154 of city dwellers who will then take place under the surface.

### 155 **Bonus: the French "greviculture" seen from abroad**

156 Between amazement, comparison, irony, or admiration of Macron, the European media  
157 the echo of the social conflicts that cross l ' Hexagon.  
158

159 Social conflicts in France have been extensively treated by the European press. While the  
160 strike dotted resumes at the SNCF, Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 April, and the President of the Group  
161 rail Guillaume Pepy reported Sunday at the Grand Jury RTL - LCI -*The Figaro* a  
162 mobilization which 's . ' " *eroding* " , the British press summarizes the general question to be  
163 asking if Emmanuel Macron will be the president who will capitulate unions.

### 164 **1. the attentive Germany**

The press German, very attentive to what is happening in France, has largely 165 covered the strikes in  
166 France. Commentators welcomed in general the process of reforms initiated by Emmanuel  
167 Macro which, according to the conservative daily *Die Welt* , « " . *wants to catch up within a few  
months of*

168 " *decades of social stagnation and Dizzy to some* ' ;

169 Other commentators worried about the effect of the strikes on the other reforms  
170 required. ' L . ' *failure of l ' French school to offset social inequalities, lack of  
171 staff qualified, high business taxes are more pressing problems* [that the ]

172 [ SNCF] " » , writes the correspondent of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* . The *Handelsblatt* alarmed rhythm  
173 reforms and the lack of explanations accompanying them. "*Often the Government merely* .

174 *to say that ' he has a mandate to modernize the country. It's true, but this does not explain  
175 " precisely each of the reforms"* , underlines the correspondent to Paris economic daily.

176 The left weekly *Der Freitag* remind him, that the right to strike in France is much less  
177 framed only in Germany. And highlighted the risk of this long conflict for unions and for their  
178 members.

### 179 **2. the Belgium attempted by comparisons**

180 In Belgium, where the Government of the liberal Charles Michel tent of many reforms that

181 lead a mobilisation of unions (of the public service, especially), for four years, we  
182 establishes many parallels with the French situation. ' *The french president attacks on all* .  
183 *social fronts, with ambitions as wide as those that has displayed with us Charles*  
184 " *Michel*" writes, for example, the economic daily *Echo*.  
185 Will go to the end in his desire to shake up the France? It is, in any case, only in the  
186 orders, recently analyzed *In the evening*, on several pages. With the risk of being, to l'like the  
187 Belgian Prime Minister, the leader the most contested since 20 years. Mr. Michel  
188 intends to reform the wage policy, taxation, pension... system and the SNCB.

### 189 3. the Netherlands between astonishment and uncertainty

190 In the Netherlands, where another liberal, Mark Rutte, has imposed a strong austerity which resulted  
191 a return to growth and a budget surplus, politicians and commentators are  
192 shared between the astonishment in front of the ' extent of reforms in France ("*finally*" ),  
193 point to a lot of them) and uncertainty about the final results.

194 This is the situation of the national airline KLM - merged with Air France - that worries  
195 particularly. "*Air France-KLM is still far behind its competitors for twelve months*" ,  
196 get it up *Het Financieel Dagblad* . "*Despite this, the unions demand 6% d . ' " increase ' ,*  
197 insists the popular daily *Of Telegraaf* . He relayed the views of the NVL pilots Union, which  
198 judge the excessive claims of his counterparts. The site *Nieuwsuur* of the public channel  
199 Our wonders, him, if Emmanuel Macron will go to the end of its projects. 'Yes', responds  
200 the Economist Mathijs Bouman. 's . ' *he can't, by the way, who will do? "*, he wondered.

### 201 4. the United Kingdom wonders if the France has found his "Thatcher"

The cartoon this Mr. Macron bearing instead of hair 202 curly perm of  
203 Margaret Thatcher, and giving a strong bag in hand at a group of demonstrators of the  
204 CGT. Above, the title is unambiguous: "*what is the France has found his Thatcher?*". The  
205 drawing, in 'one' of the weekly *The Week* summarizes the dominant press mark  
206 British: the french president will succeed to subdue the demonstrators? For years, the  
207 press from across the channel looking for the person who will reform the France as did the Iron Lady  
208 to the United Kingdom in the 1980s. She thought they found it a decade ago with  
209 Nicolas Sarkozy. And, with a few rare exceptions, she hopes that this will finally be the case  
210 with Mr. Macron.

211 '*It's make or break*' , considered the *Guardian* in an editorial at the beginning of  
212 events. The *Times* think that '*this time, c'is different*' strikes against Jacques  
213 Chirac, Nicolas Sarkozy and François Hollande. The french president '*maybe* .  
214 " *get*' to win over unions, wants to believe the centre-right daily. Christian May, the  
215 Editor of the very liberal *City A.M.* , a free business daily, think success  
216 against unions is necessary: 's . ' *it fails to liberalize and open the economy*  
217 *French, his ambition to make his country the natural place to host the news*

218 *technology will remain a mere dream. »*

## 219 **5. the Spain pro-Macron**

220 In Spain, where the mainstream media comment on with a mixture of envy, of admiration and  
221 kindness all the political decisions of the pro-European Emmanuel Macron, strikes  
222 French do little to talk about them, if not to provide editorial support to the  
223 the France reforms.

224 On 9 April, the daily *El País* published an editorial titled '*The reform train* .

225 "*french* ' believing that '*the fact that l . ' French economy speeds up its growth and reduced the*

226 "*unemployment* ' is a "*great opportunity for Macron to carry out reforms so* .

227 "*pushed back time and including the France has both need to win the future* '.

228 Strikes in itself did not cause of comments from tour operators and managers

229 company, for which the France anyway is a country of strikers and protests

230 muscular. Thing that often arouses admiration from the left and the unions in

231 Spain, who are struggling to mobilize in the long term and are subject to minimum services very

232 important. Only different note: in a text of April 20, the correspondent of the newspaper *El Mundo* ,

233 Enric González , observed that no one seems satisfied in France. "*Spring* ".

234 "*arrived in France*", he writes.

## 235 **6. the ironic Scandinavia**

236 When asked about the strikes in France, the Norse chuckle: are there not, in this country,

237 always a current social movement? And each of his personal stories. A train

238 missed, a plane cancelled... In early April, the Danish daily *Politiken* published an article

239 title "*How can the strike affect you*" . In the margin of a report from users,

240 Swedish TV *SVT* indicated that '*the France is the country the more strikers in the world* ' , reference  
report of the German Foundation Hans Böckler, according to which 241 the hexagon would have known

132

242 days of strike for 1,000 employees in 2017 against... 5 for the Sweden!

243 The Scandinavian press took the opportunity to go back on the reforms undertaken by the

244 President Emmanuel Macron. The enthusiasm in the region for his election, there is close

245 a year, seems to be slightly tarnished these last months.