



Reasons to ruminate

The British newspaper "The Economist" surely cannot be blamed for being anti-capitalistic or spinning sinister theories of conspiracy about globalization. All the more its laconic statements sometimes must give skeptics about what's going on the creeps.

Ask the right questions.

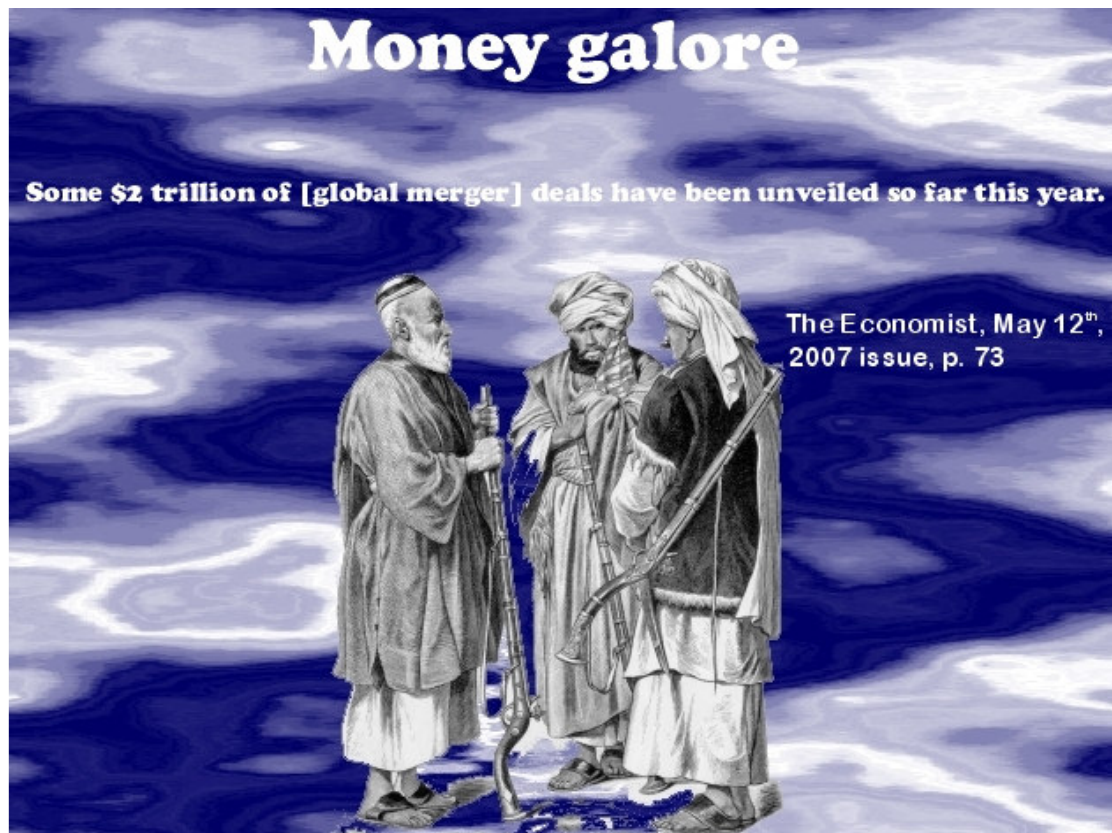
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Money galore

Some \$2 trillion of [global merger] deals have been unveiled so far this year.

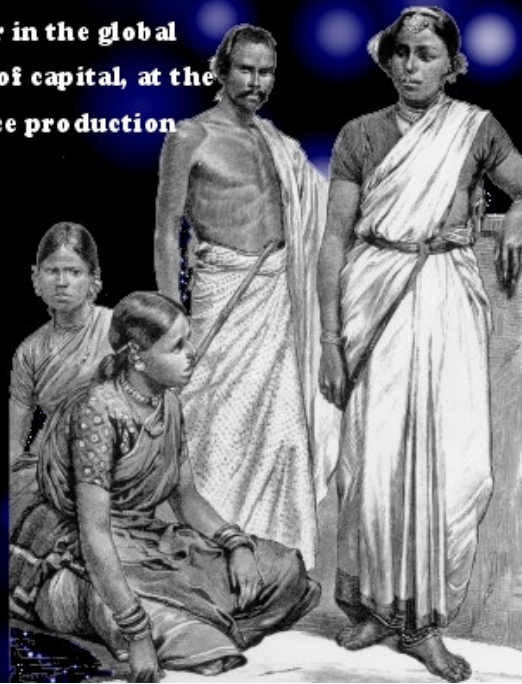
The Economist, May 12th,
2007 issue, p. 73



Marx is dead - and so are workers' rights

The bulls argue that the balance of power in the global economy has shifted decisively in favour of capital, at the expense of labour. The ability to outsource production to Asia is holding down wages.

The Economist, April 28th, 2007 issue, p. 81



Churning out bubbles

By 2007 financial services were making 40% of America's corporate profits - while employing only 5% of its private-sector workers. Meanwhile, financial sector debt, only a tenth of the size of non-financial-sector debt in 1980, is now half as big.

The Economist, March 22nd, 2008 issue, p. 15 f.



The heavy costs of cheap goods

The ports [of Los Angeles and Long Beach] themselves reckon they are responsible for about 12% of all the diesel particle emissions and 45% of the sulphur oxides in southern California. Carried east by prevailing winds, such pollutants help to create some of America's worst air more than 50 miles (80 km) inland. Those who live close to the freeways leading out of the ports suffer most.

Researchers at the University of Southern California have found that children living within a few hundred metres of such roads are not only more likely to suffer from asthma. They actually have smaller lungs.

From 1997 to 2006 in both ports the number of annually unloaded 20-foot-containers increased from 4 million to more than 10 million.

The Economist, April 28th, 2007 issue, p. 54 & 55



Bloody oily eggs

The chaos in the Niger delta, it turns out, has a surprising amount to do with the price of eggs.

The Economist, June 23rd, 2007 issue, p. 82 f.



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