Four months after the thunderbolt of 23 June 2016, the chapters in a scenario that once seemed unthinkable are gradually falling into place. In early October Th. May ended the suspense, announcing that the possibility of leaving the EU would be activated at the end of April 2017, putting the UK on the path to a “hard Brexit”. It seems increasingly probable that the British government will go all-out to retake control over immigration, even if this means giving up the benefits of the single market. This is particularly distressing to the financial community in the City, which is doing everything possible to retain the right to sell financial products throughout Europe. The negotiations, which are expected to last two years, are likely to be very hard nosed. [R, abr.]

In the two-and-a-half decades since unification, Germany has developed a distinctive approach towards international crisis-management. The article analyzes in detail the evolution of the German approach during the governments of G. Schröder and A. Merkel in the light of three interlinked debates on German foreign policy: continuity and change; multi-lateralism; and leadership. The announcement of a more active German foreign policy in 2014 has reanimated these debates. Concentrating its efforts on networked security and capacity-building Germany has become an indispensable player in international crisis-management. At the same time Germany’s deep rooted attachment to a culture of military restraint and continued reluctance to lead, limit its ability to work for necessary reforms at the European level. [R]

How can elected officials induce bureaucrats to invest in acquiring the expertise necessary to provide high-quality public services? We test and extend aspects of S. Gailmard and J. Patty’s expertise model [“Slackers and Zealots: civil service, policy discretion, and bureaucratic expertise”, American Journal of Political Science 51(4), Oct. 2007: 873-889] in the context of contemporary governance using a unique randomized controlled field experiment of school principals in Denmark. Consistent with the expertise model, we find that bureaucratic agents randomly assigned greater discretion in the allocation of personnel resources were more likely to acquire information on school performance. We extend the model in two ways: (1) we show that discretion effects are stronger when the information available aligns with bureaucratic goal preferences; (2) we show that institutional design choices that improve the relative benefits of the information increase information acquisition. [R]

The Cherokees wrote a constitution in 1827; in contrast, the Yokuts tribe on the Santa Rosa Rancheria Reservation adopted theirs in 2014. As Native American tribal constitutions are common, I examine determinants of establishing these written constitutions. During their formation, some reservations had bands of the same tribe forced onto the same land. These reservations of forced coexistence wrote constitutions at an earlier date. More homogeneous, centralized tribes tended to adopt their constitutions at a later date, although this finding is less robust. The implication is that coordination costs were less than the benefits from constraining a potential rival band, and that social norms of centralization made having a written constitution less necessary. Additionally, a positive correlation is found between having a written constitution and economic output, similar to other studies. [R]

This article studies the contemporary policies of school closure in the rural areas within the framework of the reform of the state in France. Based on interviews, reports, statistics and ethnographic observations, the survey conducted at the national and local levels underlines the budgetary and organizational rationalization behind restrictions to public service in the fields of primary education. The restitution of the national political oppositions, ministerial activity, the drafting of the educational offer within local administrations and negotiations with teachers unions and local elected officials explains how these reforms implying a withdrawal of the educational state are made socially acceptable. [R]

This paper explores the role of presidential politics in influencing the distribution of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. In particu-