POLITIQUE EXTERIEURE

EUROPE/GLOBAL ECONOMY

- 'Rigid' G20 is too big and slow (AUS-Bus/Une) Peter Wilson, Europe correspondent
  AN architect of the G20 international forum has called for major changes to what is now the world's dominant economic gathering.

CHINA/ASIA PACIFIC

- China declares victory on currency reform (AFR/Une) Greg Earl, Asia Pacific editor
  China has declared its gradual currency liberalisation has been a success, paving the way for more flexibility but also challenging the US to accept the legitimacy of the current valuation.

- Poll is an important test for a young democracy (CAN/Opinion) Michael Leach, associate professor in politics and public policy at Melbourne's Swinburne University of Technology.

- Realpolitik with Fiji is real contact (AUS/Opinion) Julie Bishop

- Chinese leader's reforms warning (AGE+SMH/Une) Philip Wen, Beijing
  CHINESE Premier Wen Jiabao has used one of his last public addresses to deliver a strong warning that China must undertake "urgent" political reforms or risk the repeat of tragedies such as the Cultural Revolution.

- Negotiated settlement best chance to avert civil war in failed Afghanistan (AGE/Opinion) Seumas Milne
  Massacres flow from the very nature of foreign occupations.

- Why India is not a superpower (AGE/Opinion) Amrit Dhillon
  Rich Indians have forgotten the country cannot meet the basic needs of poor people.

MIDDLE EAST

- Do Downer and Brumby support Huawei? (AUS-A Plus/Opinion) Avi Jorisch
  THE Chinese company reportedly has aided Iranian police in tracking opposition figures.

AFGHANISTAN

- Why the Afghanistan war has failed on all fronts (CAN/Opinion) Seumas Milne, Guardian

US

- Santorum builds pace but Gingrich won't give in (SMH-World/Une) Nick O'Malley, Washington
  The Republican Party's bitter fight to select a presidential nominee will grind on after Rick Santorum picked up wins in Alabama and Mississippi with Newt Gingrich refusing to bow out despite two losses in his Deep South backyard.

- Reminder of Rudd as Gingrich clings on (SMH/Opinion) Paul Sheehan
  It is a fascinating time for the politics of selfishness, for seeing public self-absorption and public vendettas taking precedence over party loyalty and personal humility. Kevin Rudd paraded all of this recently. Now we are seeing the same from the most experienced Republican in the contest to become the next president of the US.
Political parties

- **Alliance blocks your right to know** (CAN/Opinion) Barnaby Joyce, Nationals’ Senate Leader.
- **Carr the elephant in anti-nuke cabinet** (AUS-A Plus/Opinion) Dennis Jensen
  
  LET’S hope the Foreign Minister has an influence on energy policy.
- **Nicholls may be first LNP premier** (AUS-A Plus/Opinion) Gary Johns
  
  WHOEVER wins Campbell Newman’s seat, state debt will soon be hogging headlines.

Queensland Election

- **Sold out by asset sell-off** (AFR/Opinion) John Quiggin, ARC Federation Fellow at the University of Queensland and the author of Zombie Economics: How Dead Ideas Still Walk Among Us, which will be published in Australia in May.

Indigenous Affairs

- **Fiefdoms are robbing Aborigines** (AUS-A Plus/Opinion) Wesley Aird
  
  PROPERTY rights are not universal in modern Australia, as the residents of Baniyala found.

Energy/Environment/Carbon

- **Palmer hits back: see you in court** (AGE/Une) David Wroe, Michelle Grattan
  
  MINING billionaire Clive Palmer has escalated his campaign against the Gillard government, vowing to mount a High Court challenge to the carbon tax.
- **Business push to speed up tax cut** (SMH/Une) Phillip Coorey
  
  BUSINESS groups, including those which oppose the mining tax, are urging the Senate to pass the associated deductions in company tax, saying they are a vital economic reform.

Economy

- **Future Fund wanted Costello** (AFR/Une) Laura Tingle Political editor
  
  Federal cabinet ignored the advice of the Future Fund’s board that former treasurer Peter Costello should be its next chairman as it believed bitter board divisions could only be resolved with the appointment of an outsider.
- **Tax cut push for 40,000 extra businesses** (AFR/Une) Fleur Anderson, Patrick Durkin, Katie Walsh
  
  Treasurer Wayne Swan is under pressure to give 40,000 extra medium-sized businesses a tax cut on July 1 in a compromise deal that would pass the mining tax but sacrifice tax cuts for Australia’s 3300 biggest companies.
- **Time to fix Future Fund process** (AFR/Opinion) Meredith Edwards, Emeritus Professor, ANZSOG Institute for Governance, University of Canberra, and was formerly deputy secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. She is co-author of a forthcoming book, Public Sector Governance in Australia.
- **Swan speaks indisputable truth** (CAN/Opinion) John Warhurst, emeritus professor of political science at the Australian National University.
- **Tax cut not reform: business** (AUS/Une) Annabel Hepworth, Lisa Macnamara
  
  THE fight over the meagre 1c cut to the company tax rate has reignited business calls for a far more significant overhaul.
- **Fund board wanted Costello: Gonski** (AUS/Une) David Crowe, Andrew Burrell
  
  LABOR ignored the Future Fund board’s strong advice to select Peter Costello as its head, incoming chairman David Gonski has revealed.
- **Hubris hurts our economy** (AGE-Bus/Opinion/Une) Tim Colebatch
  
  THE resources boom that is boosting activity in one third of Australia is flattening activity in the other two-thirds - yet the Coalition and the Greens want to stop the government doing something to help.
- **State faces crunch time** (AGE/Opinion) Josh Gordon
  
  Smart planning would be a better policy than regurgitating old numbers.
Mining/Gas
- **Mining boom can lift whole economy** (AFR/Opinion) Ed Shann, director of Prime Value Asset Management. This article is based on a paper written for the Minerals Council of Australia.
- **Coalition predict $4b shortfall in mining tax** (CAN/Une) Ross Peake

Transport
- **Top-level talks to end freight row – Locking up the transport chain** (AFR/Une) Matthew Stevens
- **Now, to get trains of thought on track** (AFR-Features) Michaela Whitbourn
- **Shipping reform that will limit access** (AFR/Opinion) Margie Thomson, chief executive of the Cement Industry Federation.
  The shipping reforms the Gillard government is attempting to speed through the parliament this year will strangle access to foreign ships for domestic purposes.

Defence /Security
- **Austral eyes more navy work** (CAN-Bus/Une) AAP
- **Smith has shot himself in the foot** (AUS-A Plus/Opinion) Greg Sheridan, Foreign Editor
  OUR troops just want his respect and appreciation . . . and for him to do his job.
- **Skype scandal attacks serve only to weaken our defence** (AGE/Opinion) Michael O'Keefe
  Time for military chiefs to let controversy rest and focus on protecting the nation.

Media/privacy debate
- **Papers part of our DNA: News chief** (AUS-Bus/Une) Geoff Elliott

FRANCE

- **Sarkozy wants Internet giants to pay tax** (AUS-World) AFP
- **Sarkozy can still look like a king** (AUS/Opinion) Charles Brenner
- **Huppert willing to go to extremes for vision** (AUS) Rebecca Puddy

EDITORIAUX DU JOUR

The Australian
- **Little sense in one-cent tax wrestling**
  COMPREHENSIVE fiscal reform seems beyond our politicians.
- **HSU farce needs new inquiry**
  ONLY a royal commission can properly probe this scandal.
- **Schools must meet local needs**
  NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli is on the right track.

Financial Review
- **Future Fund follies expose fiscal failures**
  The well-connected businessman David Gonski is a good choice to chair the Future Fund, but the appointment process has been a shemozzle that lacked transparency.

Sydney morning Herald
- **Tax reform by a thousand cuts**
  NONE of the main parties has come off looking good in the standoff over the proposed cut to the company tax rate linked to the minerals resource rent tax.

The Melbourne Age
- **Living on the fringe can make people sick**
  Public health must be an objective of urban planning.

The Canberra Times
- **Shedding light on energy proposal**