

1690

Army of Protestant King William III of England defeats deposed Roman Catholic King James II in the Battle of the Boyne at Oldbridge, Ireland

1858

Joint reading of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace's papers on evolution to the Linnean Society renders audience awestruck and silent [1]



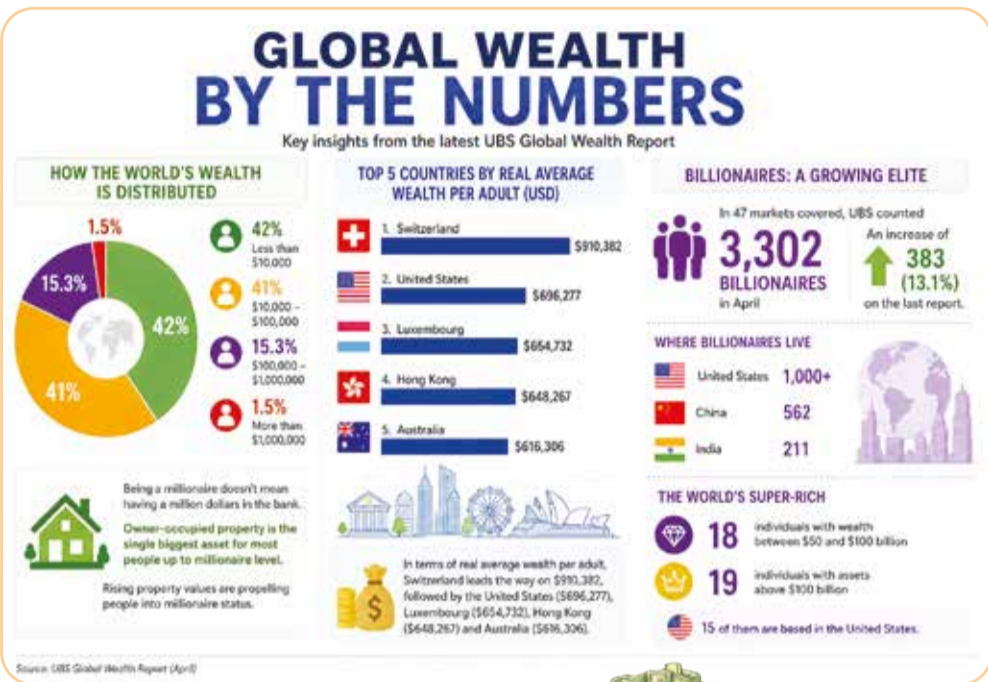
1863

Battle of Gettysburg begins in Pennsylvania, Union forces halt Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia

1997

United Kingdom returns Hong Kong and the New Territories to People's Republic of China

# Record number of 'new millionaires' in 2025



AFP | Zurich, Switzerland

Global personal wealth surged in 2025, with a record number of new millionaires, Swiss bank UBS said yesterday.

Last year saw nearly one million people worldwide become US dollar millionaires -- the equivalent of 2,600 people a day, according to the bank's estimates.

The United States accounted for almost half of new millionaires in 2025, adding more than 440,000 individuals, followed by China, Japan, Germany, Britain and France, which each count more than two million millionaires in total.

Switzerland's biggest bank, which is among the world's largest wealth managers, produces the annual UBS Global Wealth Report, which assesses personal wealth trends.

It covers all financial and non-financial assets, primarily property, minus debts, with



asset values converted into dollars.

"The real story is one of continued expansion: more people moving up the wealth ladder," the report said.

"The gains... point to a world that kept building wealth, deepening its affluent population and extending a long-running upward trend."

UBS said that in 2025, global personal wealth rose by 10.8% in dollar terms, significantly outpacing growth seen in 2024 (4.6%) and 2023 (4.2%).

Wealth growth was strongest in Europe, the Middle

East and Africa, at 17.5% -- helped by a weaker dollar -- followed by the Americas at 8.5%. Asia-Pacific recorded growth of 5.9%.

Over half of global personal wealth remains concentrated in the United States and mainland China combined.

Since 2020, South Korea has led growth in real average wealth per adult across the 56 analysed markets, with gains above 50%. There have been increases above 25% in Croatia, Norway, Latvia, Taiwan and Bulgaria.

## Over 58,000 buildings likely damaged or destroyed in Venezuela: satellite data



This aerial view shows buildings destroyed following twin earthquakes in Caraballeda, La Guaira State, Venezuela

AFP | Washington, United States

The powerful twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela last week damaged or destroyed more than 58,000 buildings, according to a preliminary assessment of satellite

data published by US space agency NASA.

Some 1,700 people were killed and thousands remain missing following the quakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 -- the strongest to hit the South American nation in more than a century. "Approximate-

ly 58,870 buildings were likely damaged or destroyed across the affected region" based on satellite radar data gathered on June 25, the day after the earthquakes, according to researchers Corey Scher and Jamon Van Den Hoek of Oregon State University.

### WIDE ANGLE

## 250 Years: The US Experiment



JOEL INDRUPATI

One of the best things I did last month, I suppose, was booking a walking tour.

While in Washington D.C., although for a different reason, I decided I would spend one full morning touring the U.S. Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and, in particular, the Capitol building, including its crypt and the rotunda.

Thanks to Jobert, our main tour guide, I now have a clear insider's view of the Capitol which is, arguably, the world's most powerful government building.

Its grand and imposing neoclassical architecture, its role as the active legislative heart of a global superpower, and its function as a universal, globally-recognized, symbol of representative democracy, makes it unique.

Its construction began on September 18, 1793, when George Washington laid the cornerstone. Sadly, however, he did not live to see the opening of this awe-inspiring building in the then-brand-new city named after him.

Rebuilt after the British burned it down in 1814, the current, heavily modified, Capitol building incorporates parts of the original structure. The earlier dome was wooden, while the current one is cast-iron.

The birth of the United States, however, was not in Washington D.C. It was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

When, 250 years ago, the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, at the Pennsylvania State House—now known as Independence Hall—in Philadelphia, not all 56 signatories were present, but they eventually signed.

The United States Constitution then came into force in 1789, and remains the world's oldest written national constitution still in operation. The Bill of Rights, comprising the first ten amendments to the Constitution, was ratified by 1791 and still serves as a moral compass for law-makers.

While this constitution drew inspiration from earlier documents such as England's Magna Carta of 1215, it broke new ground by creating a durable framework built on federalism, checks and balances, and an independent judiciary.

The nation's founders deliberately turned to the ideals of the ancient Roman Republic when designing their new capital and its institutions. As the US Senate itself notes, they sought architecture that reflected the dignity of a republic in a world dominated by monarchies. The Capitol, with its sweeping columns and majestic dome, was intended to symbolize constitutional government and not imperial power.

History, however, offers a cautionary tale. Rome remained a republic for nearly five centuries before gradually giving way to empire. France, after its revolution, oscillated between republics, empires and monarchies before eventually settling into a stable republican system. Constitutions alone do not preserve democracies. Institutions endure only when citizens and leaders remain committed to them.

Dozens of countries have borrowed elements of the American constitutional model showing us that 'written constitution' matters. But even more important are the 'values' it seeks to protect: the rule of law, the separation of powers, accountability, and government by the consent of the governed.

Whether today's United States administration reflects the vision of the Founding Fathers depends largely on one's interpretation of current events. Some see a government adapting to twenty-first century realities. Others argue that expanding executive authority, growing bureaucracy, and increasing political polarization have taken the republic further from the founders' original intent.

The question is not whether politicians claim the founders' legacy, but whether they preserve the principles on which the republic is founded. Every generation inherits the same constitutional experiment. Every administration is merely its temporary steward.

As we concluded our tour, Jobert said something profound: "These buildings do not make the country great. It's the people inside them." He was right. Marble columns, magnificent domes and historic chambers cannot defend democracy on their own. That responsibility rests with the lawyers and judges who interpret the law, the senators and representatives who debate and legislate, the presidents who exercise restraint, and ultimately the citizens who hold them all to account.

Great republics are not sustained by architecture. They are sustained by character.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Denmark is the first Member State to complete its NextGenerationEU plan. Your success is a signal for Europe. With 1.63 billion investment in clean transport, energy efficiency and digital transformation, Denmark is leading the way.

@vonderleyen

02



#Sudan has declared a #cholera outbreak in West Kordofan state. As of 20 June 2026, the State Ministry of Health reported 838 suspected cholera cases, 7 confirmed cases and 117 deaths. The outbreak is unfolding amid the continued disruption of health services caused by conflict.

@DrTedros

03



During a meeting with the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Jonathan Powell, we discussed continued support for Ukraine. We are grateful to the United Kingdom for its decision regarding a new support package worth nearly £290 million.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



BIG WIN: The United States Supreme Court just RULED AGAINST MEN PLAYING IN WOMEN'S SPORTS. Wow! That takes that ridiculous situation off the table!!!

@realDonaldTrump

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)