

Asia



AFP

A government, at last

The world's youngest female leader takes over in New Zealand

Jacinda Ardern has a hard job ahead of her

Oct 26th 2017



JACINDA ARDERN looked a touch less assured than usual when she took to the stage on October 19th after becoming New Zealand's prime-minister designate. The 37-year-old had raised Labour from the dead after assuming leadership of it in August, but the centre-left party had still finished second in last month's general election with just under 37% of the vote. She had managed to secure leadership of the country by turning her charm on the populists of New Zealand convincing them to side with her instead of the winning centre-right

www.economist.com/asia/2017/10/26/the-worlds-youngest-female-leader-takes-over-in-new-zealand

FIRST, CONVINCING THEM TO SIDE WITH HER INSTEAD OF THE WINNING CENTER-RIGHT

National Party. With support from the Greens (who are not part of the coalition), Ms Ardern has created the first government of losing parties in New Zealand's

proportionally representative parliament. On October 26th she was sworn in as the world's youngest female leader.

Ms Ardern's promises of change resonated with many young New Zealanders. They were tired of the National Party, which had led the country for nearly a decade. But some commentators fret that change may involve a shift towards greater protectionism and an end to three decades of liberal economic reform. The populists and Labour have agreed to cut annual net migration by up to 30,000 people; to strengthen controls on the foreign purchase of farmland; and to renegotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a now-sputtering regional plan for free trade, to curb house-buying by foreigners. The New Zealand dollar took a hit

Already signed up? [Log in](#)

What happens next?

Navigate an uncertain world with *The Economist*

Save on annual and multi-year packages

[View subscription options →](#)

Cancel at any time

- ✓ We **filter out the noise** of the daily news cycle and analyse the trends that matter
- ✓ We give you rigorous, deeply researched and fact-checked journalism. That's why Americans named us their **most trusted news source** in 2017
- ✓ **Available wherever you are**—in digital, print and, uniquely, in audio, fully narrated by professional broadcasters



This website adheres to all nine of NewsGuard's standards of credibility and transparency.

OR

Continue reading this article

[Register with an email address](#)