

## **State of the union**

**There are popular laws, beloved laws and President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan ... [which] entails \$1.9tn of public spending amid a growing economy, under a president of wrongly but widely impugned legitimacy, after two lavish bills to the same end in 12 months. The debate over the wisdom of such largesse is everywhere except in the general public.**

**...**

**The pandemic has crystallised a thought for which there was once only scattered evidence. But at some point in this century, the US became a mildly social democratic country, in its attitudes if not the reality of its welfare state.**

**Janan Ganesh, Financial Times, 2021/03/02**