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POLITICS

Trump fires Kristi Noem as DHS chief, names Sen. Markwayne Mullin to replace her

MARCH 5, 2026 · 2:20 PM ET

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TRANSCRIPT

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem attends a meeting in the Oval Office on Nov. 17, 2025.

Win McNamee/Getty Images

President Trump fired Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and said Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma would replace her.

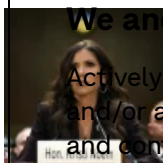
Noem "will be moving to be Special Envoy for The Shield of the Americas, our new Security Initiative in the Western Hemisphere we are announcing on Saturday in Doral, Florida," Trump posted on social media. "I thank Kristi for her service at 'Homeland.'"

Noem is the first Cabinet secretary to leave the Trump administration in Trump's second term. The announcement comes after Noem spent two days being grilled by lawmakers in Congress over her leadership.

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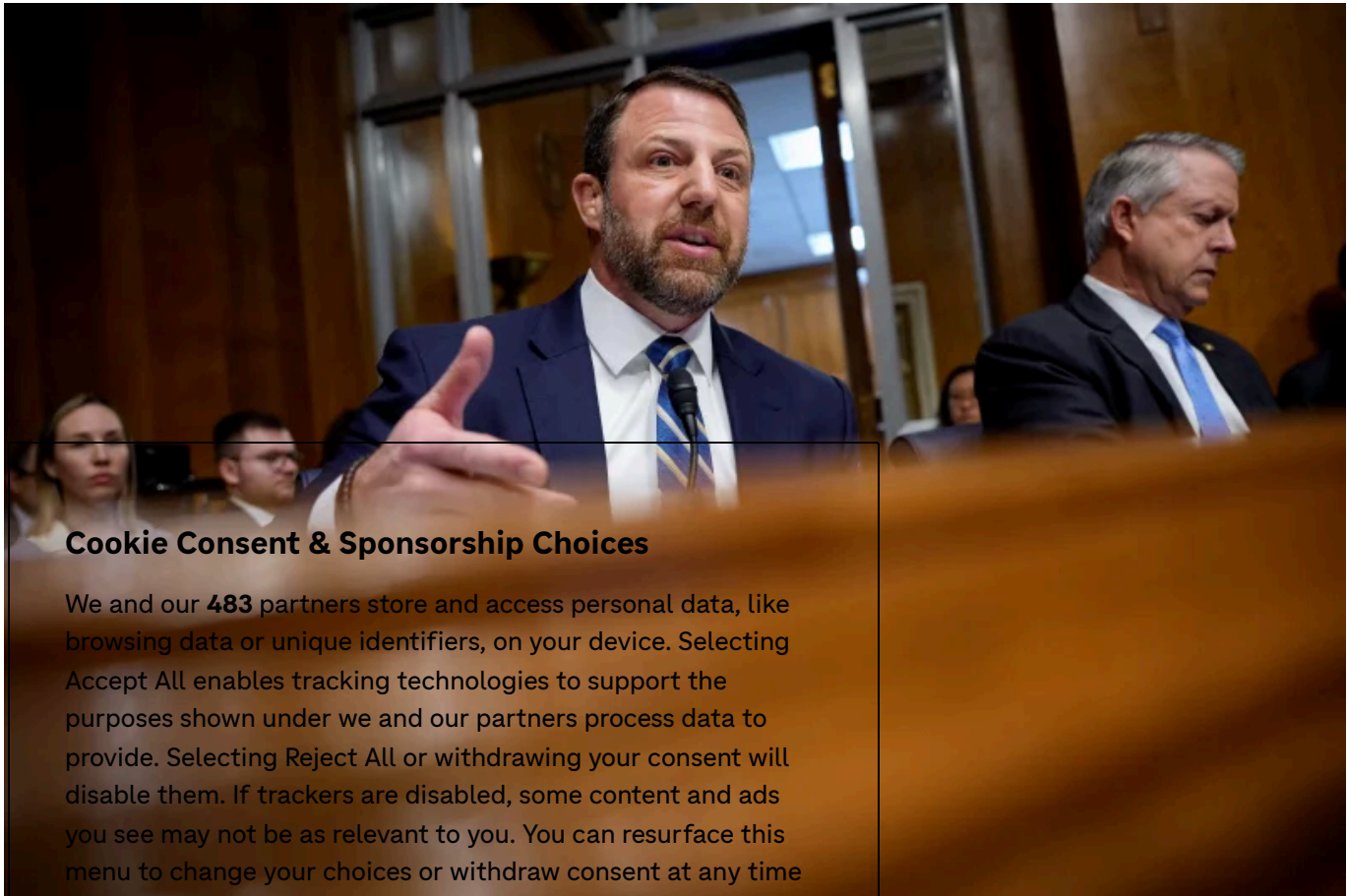
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Senators pressed Kristi Noem on the DHS shutdown and shootings. Here are key moments

Mullin has been a defender of the president and his immigration agenda.

"A MAGA Warrior, and former undefeated professional MMA fighter, Markwayne truly gets along well with people, and knows the Wisdom and Courage required to Advance our America First Agenda," Trump said in his post, highlighting Mullin's position as the only Native American in the Senate. "Markwayne will make a spectacular Secretary of Homeland Security. Thank you for your attention to this matter!"



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Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

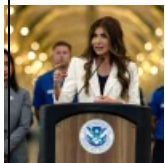
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Mullin will need to be confirmed by the Senate to take on the role permanently.

Noem, who was formerly South Dakota's governor, had been at the forefront of Trump's efforts to carry out mass deportations. Following her confirmation, she quickly became the face of the administration's immigration agenda — making

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multimillion-dollar ads urging people to self-deport, conducting press conferences around the U.S. touting deportation numbers, and conducting international visits geared at promoting Trump's vision. Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.



LAW

Legal experts say Kristi Noem's airport video breaks the law. Penalties are unlikely

She is the highest-profile departure in recent weeks at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Madison Sheahan, former deputy director at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, left her post at the start of the year to run

for Congress. Top department spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin left her role last month.

At the start of her second year on the job, Noem faced bipartisan criticism over her leadership of an immigration enforcement surge in Minneapolis, where she deployed 3,000 officers and where two U.S. citizens were killed. Some of the loudest voices on the right for her resignation came from Sens. Thom Tillis, N.C., who is not running for reelection, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

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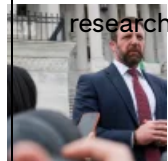
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Other Republicans denounced Noem after she referred to 37-year-old Alex Pretti, who works for the Border Patrol, as a "domestic terrorist" before any investigation had begun. Following the event, Congress, amid opposition from Democrats, failed to pass a bill to provide immigration enforcement reforms.

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What you need to know about Sen. Markwayne Mullin, Trump's new pick to lead DHS

Noem was asked to testify before the Senate and House judiciary committees in early March – as her agency was in the third week of a shutdown. She said 100,000 employees were furloughed, including those who work in cybersecurity and disaster relief.



POLITICS

5 things to know about the shutdown at the Department of Homeland Security

During the hearings, she sparred with lawmakers of both parties over the tactics used by immigration officers, spending at her agency and her broader leadership. Noem also received questions regarding a letter sent by DHS Inspector General Joseph Cuffari that accused Noem's department of having "systematically obstructed the work of the DHS Office of Inspector General" as he sought data related to immigrant arrests, airport security programs and counterintelligence.

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Noem was the face of the mass deportation agenda
During Noem's time helming the 250,000-person agency, DHS was at the center of an ambitious effort to arrest, detain and deport 1 million people without legal status a year. DHS data released in the fall shows the department deported 605,000 people and has a historic high number of people in immigration detention.

As secretary, Noem oversaw the start of a hiring surge to bring on thousands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and the proliferation of Border Patrol agents as enforcers throughout the country.

Noem's confirmation out of the Senate sailed through, despite questions over how much money the department was asking for to conduct immigration enforcement and policy directives, coming from personnel high up at the White House, such as border czar Tom Homan.

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While on the job, Noem drew scrutiny over the handling of national disaster relief and resources and the selection of Corey Lewandowski, a former Trump campaign aide, for a DHS special employee advisory role. Noem's DHS has also consistently ended up in the crosshairs of legal scrutiny — from immigration courts to the Supreme Court. Federal district judges have blocked DHS from using wartime powers to expedite deportations and has ordered some deportees returned.

If confirmed, Mulln will advise the president on a wide range of security issues.

This also includes being in charge of the Coast Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as a prominent role in counterterrorism, aviation

security and cybersecurity. We and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will

Turnover within Trump's Cabinet, has been minimal this term so far. Over the course of his first term, Trump had five DHS secretaries, including three who were acting secretaries.

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Correction

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March 5, 2026

A previous version of this story, misreported Melissa Sheehan's last name as Sheehan.

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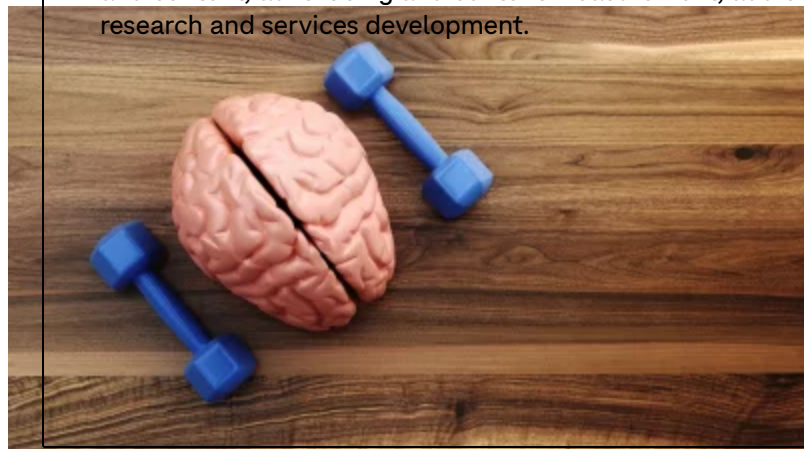
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U.S. and Iran agree to 2-week ceasefire, suspending Trump's threat to annihilate Iran



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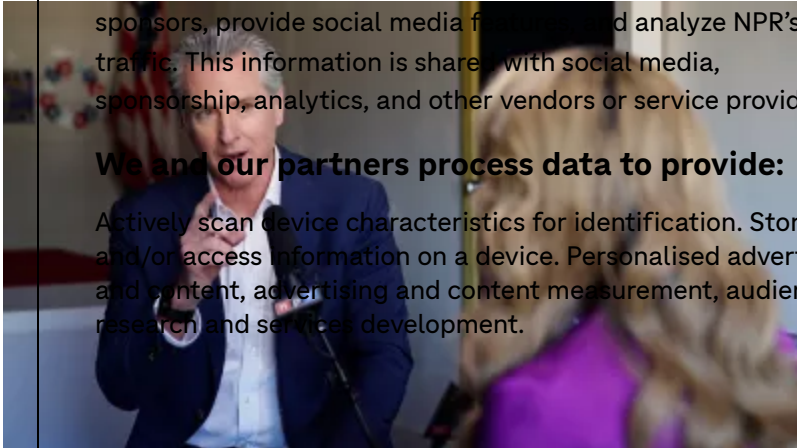
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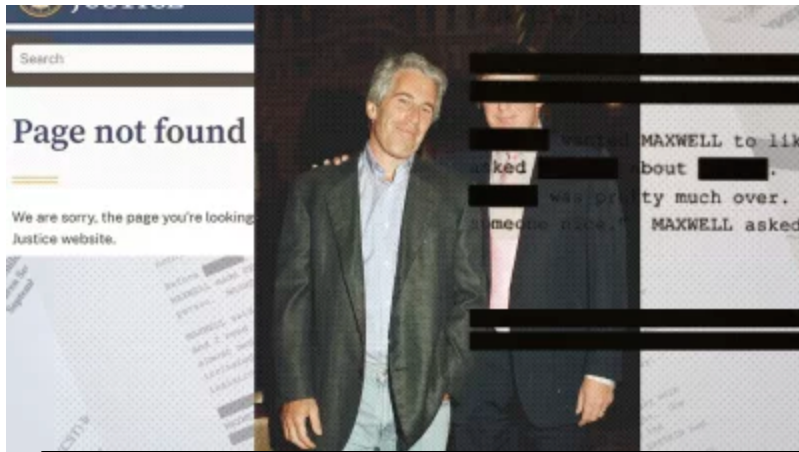


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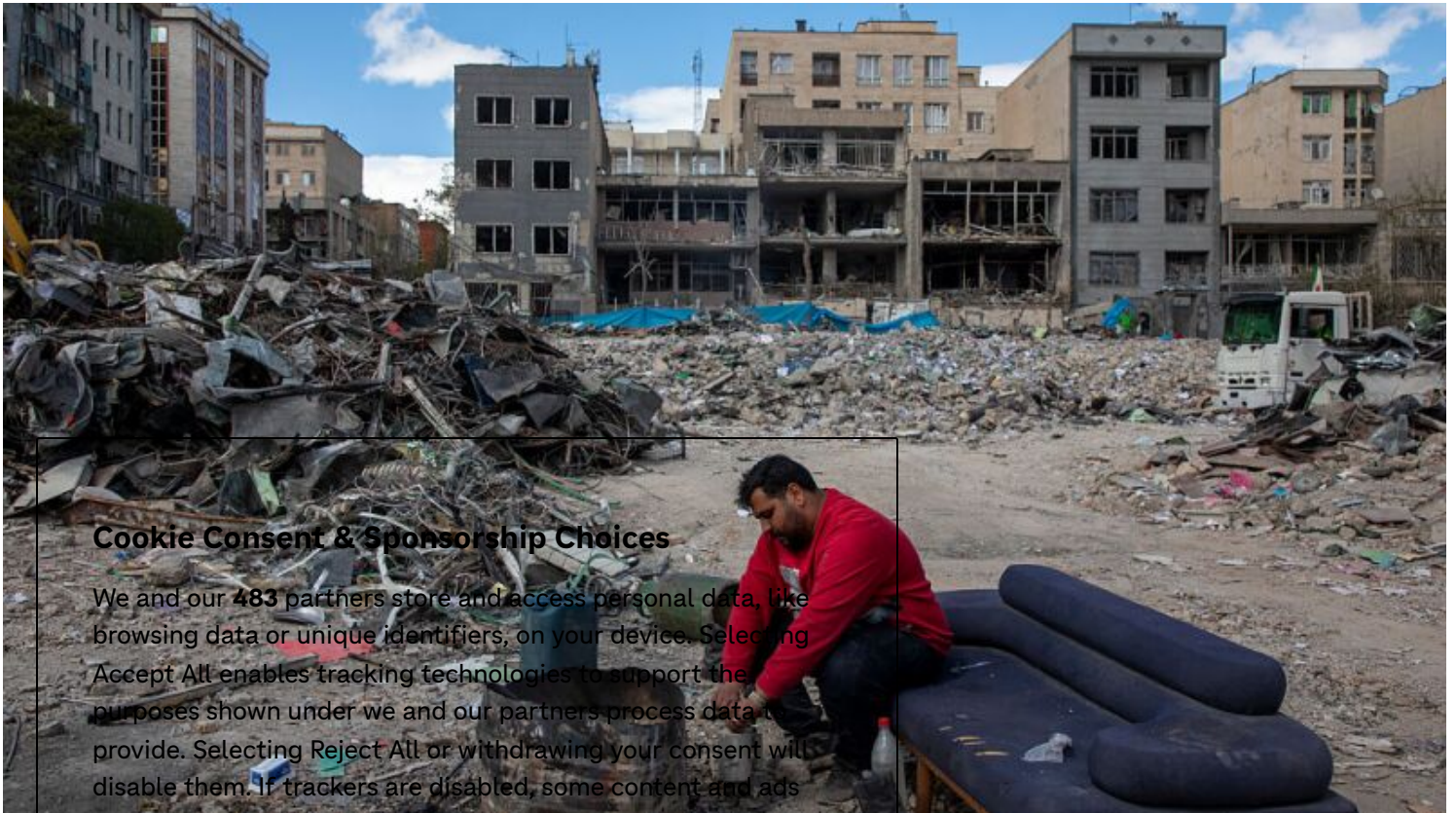
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U.S. and Iran agree to 2-week ceasefire, suspending Trump's threat to annihilate Iran

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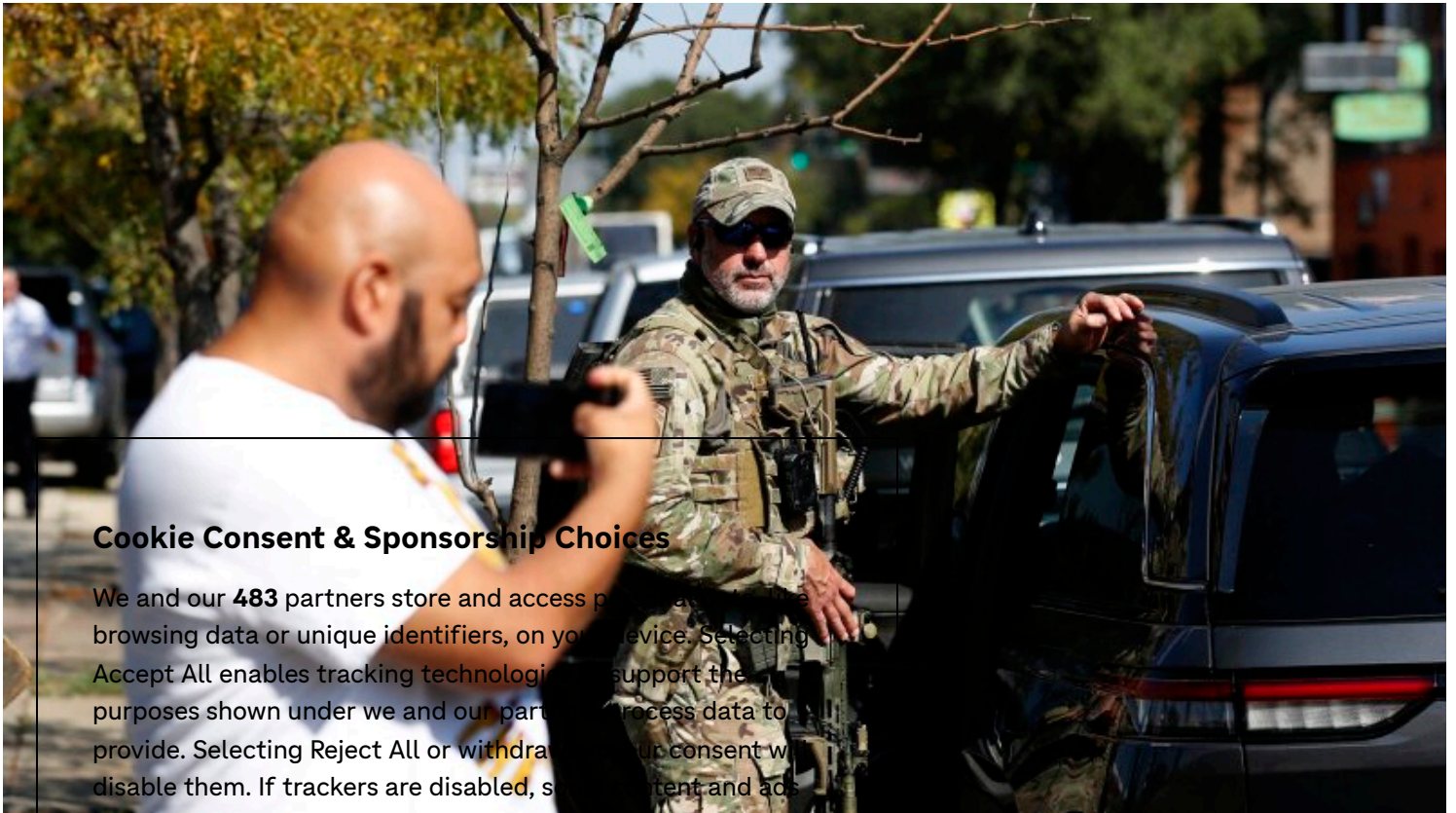
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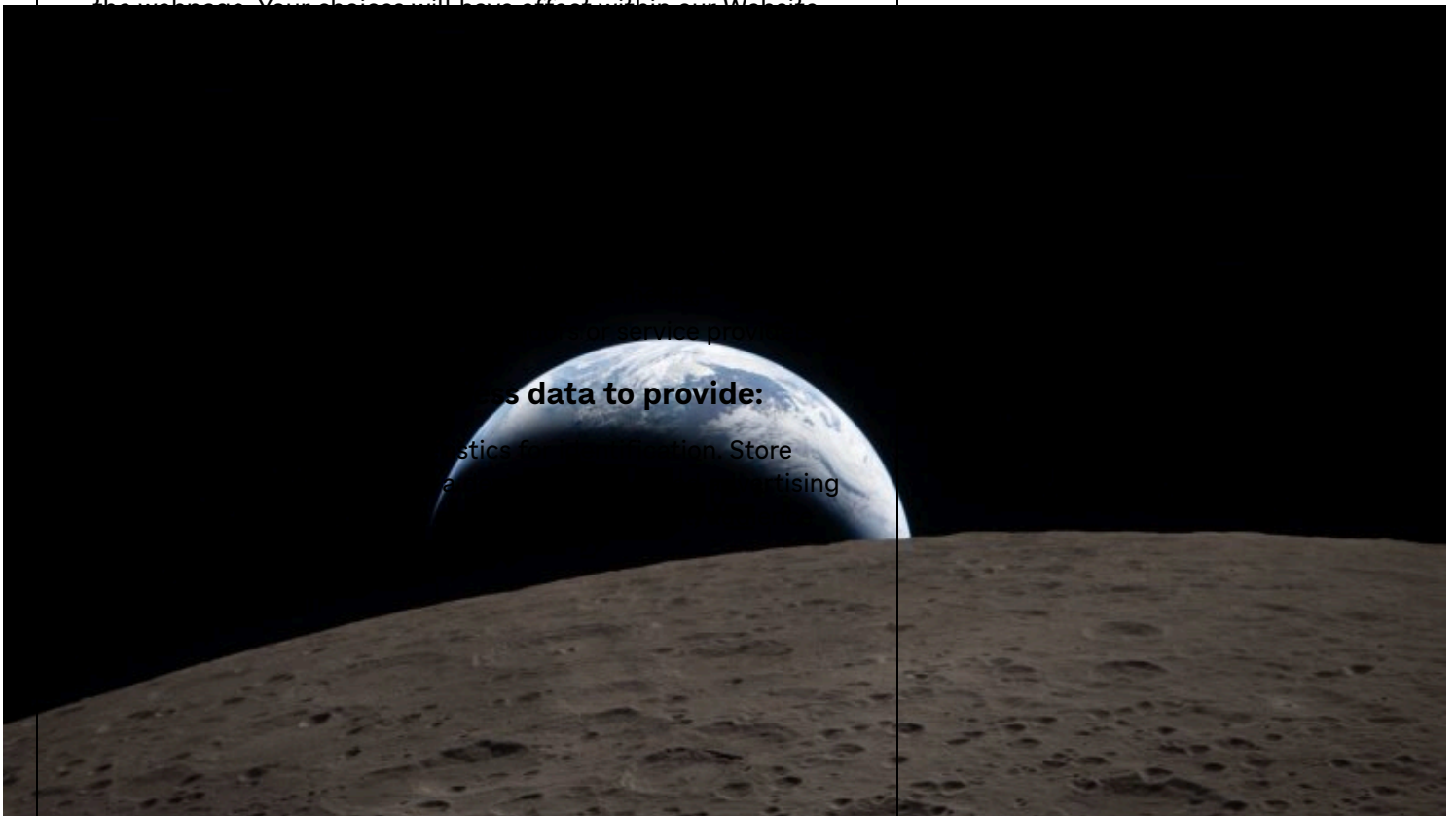


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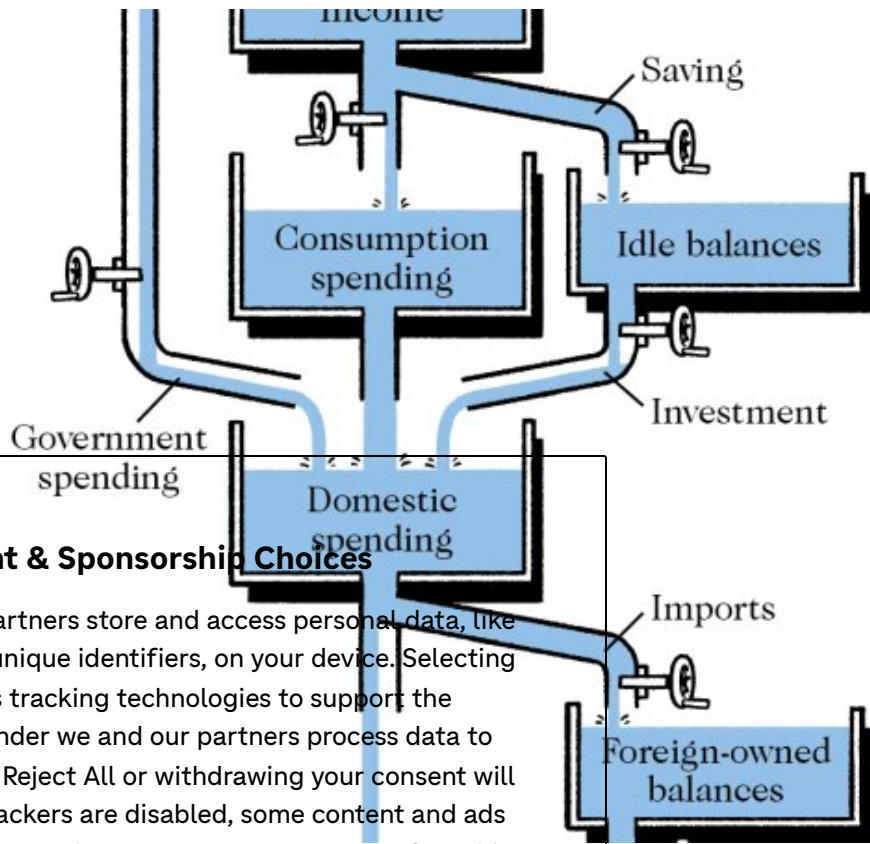
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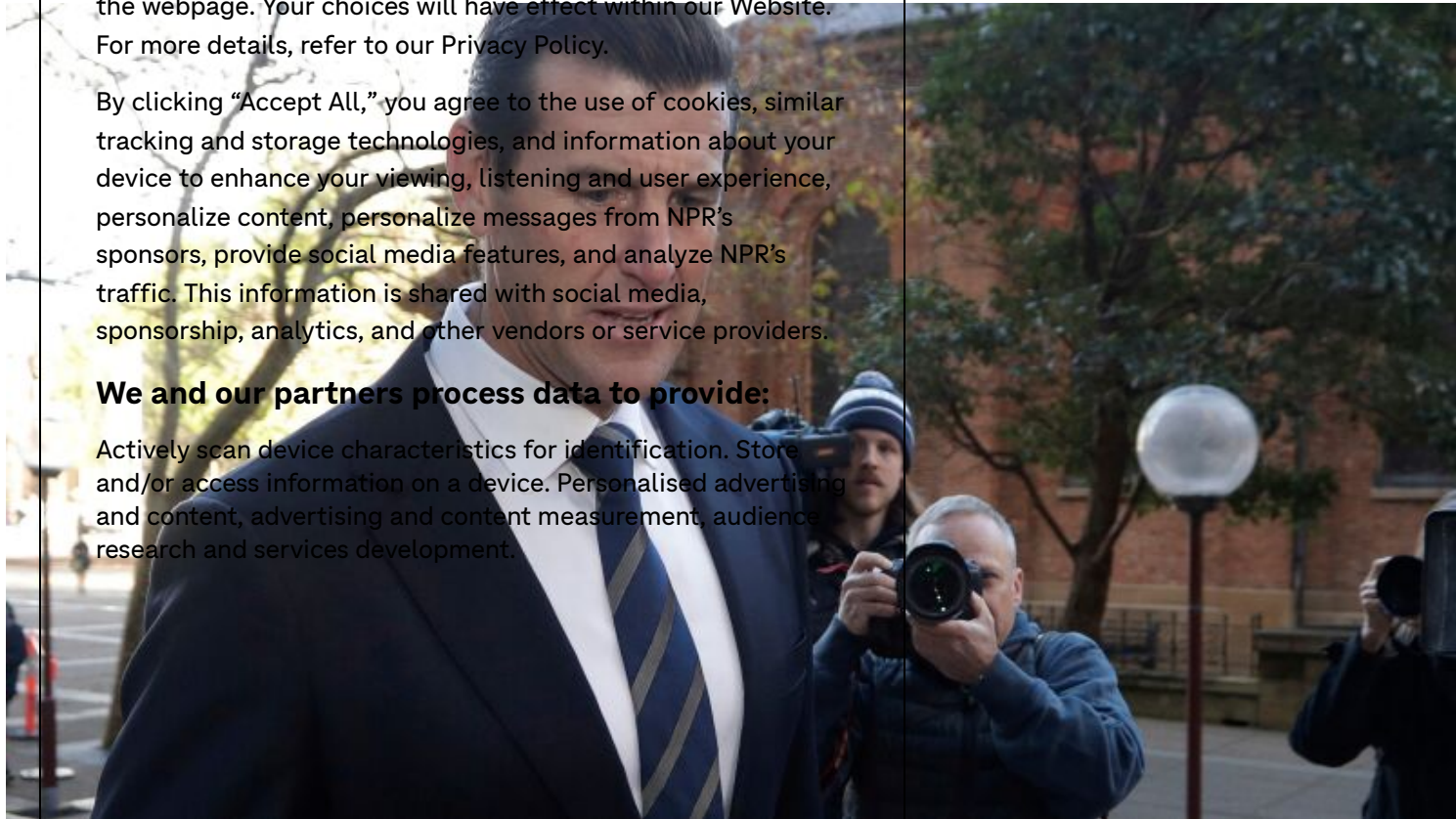
How Bill Phillips used flowing water to model the economy

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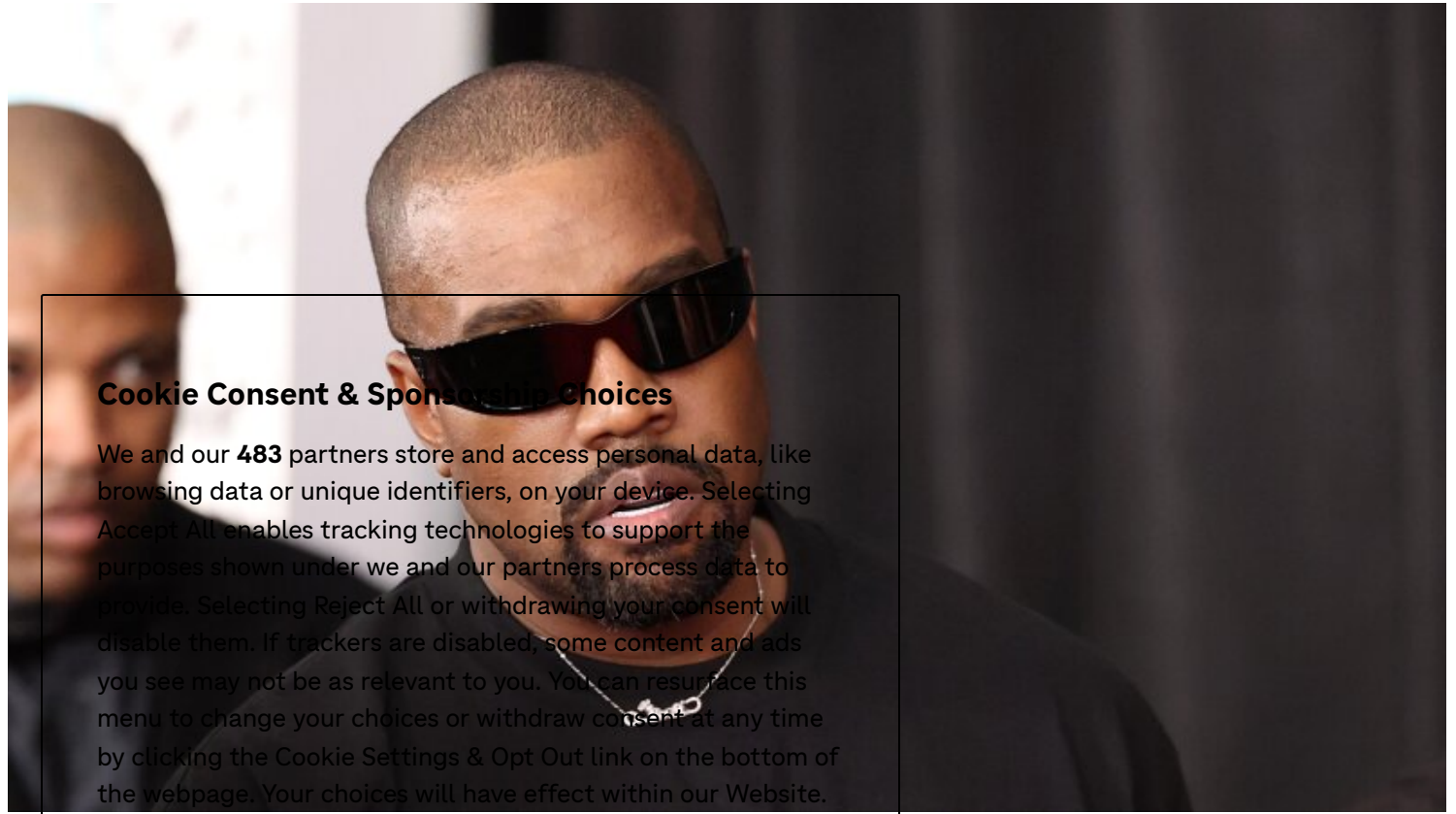
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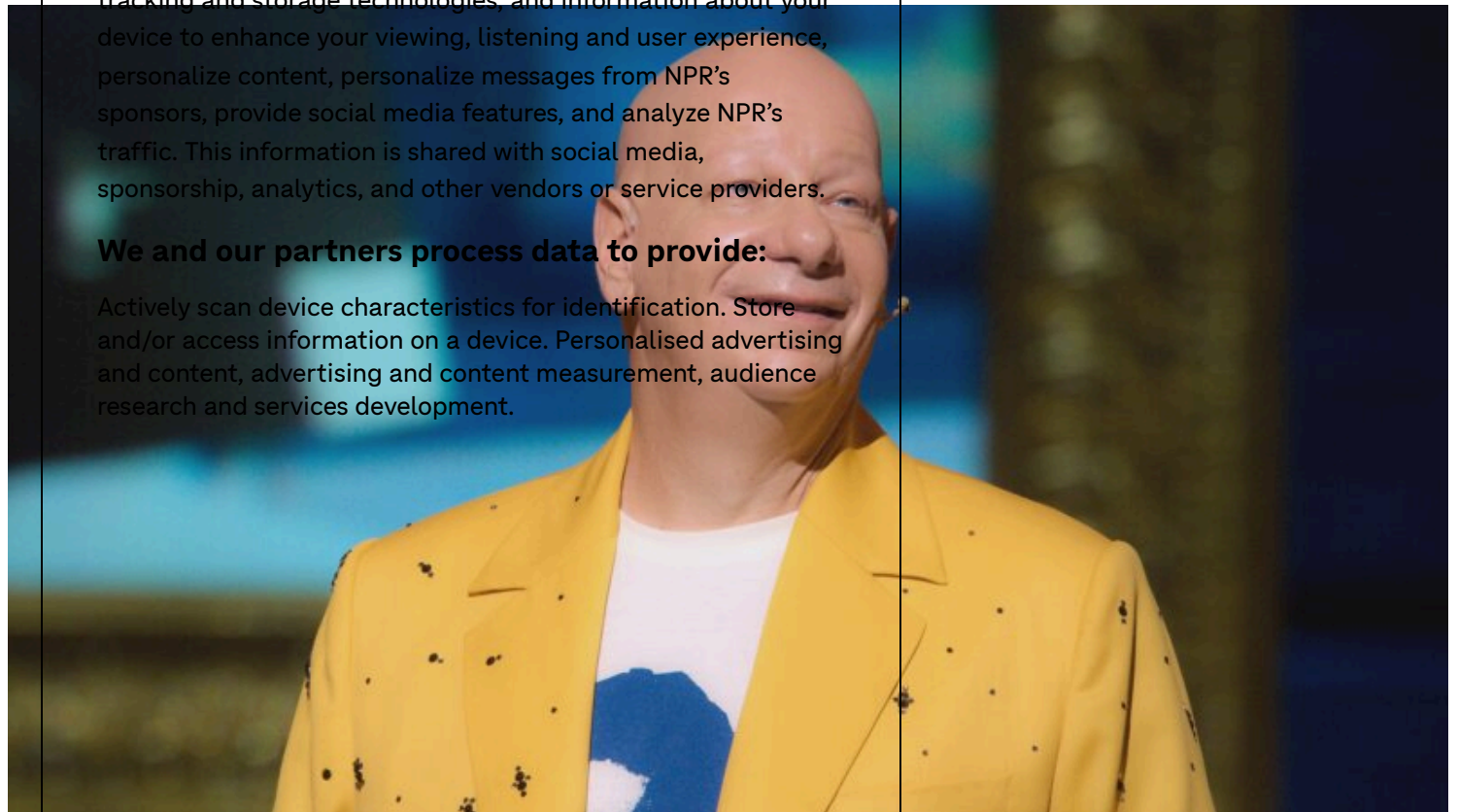
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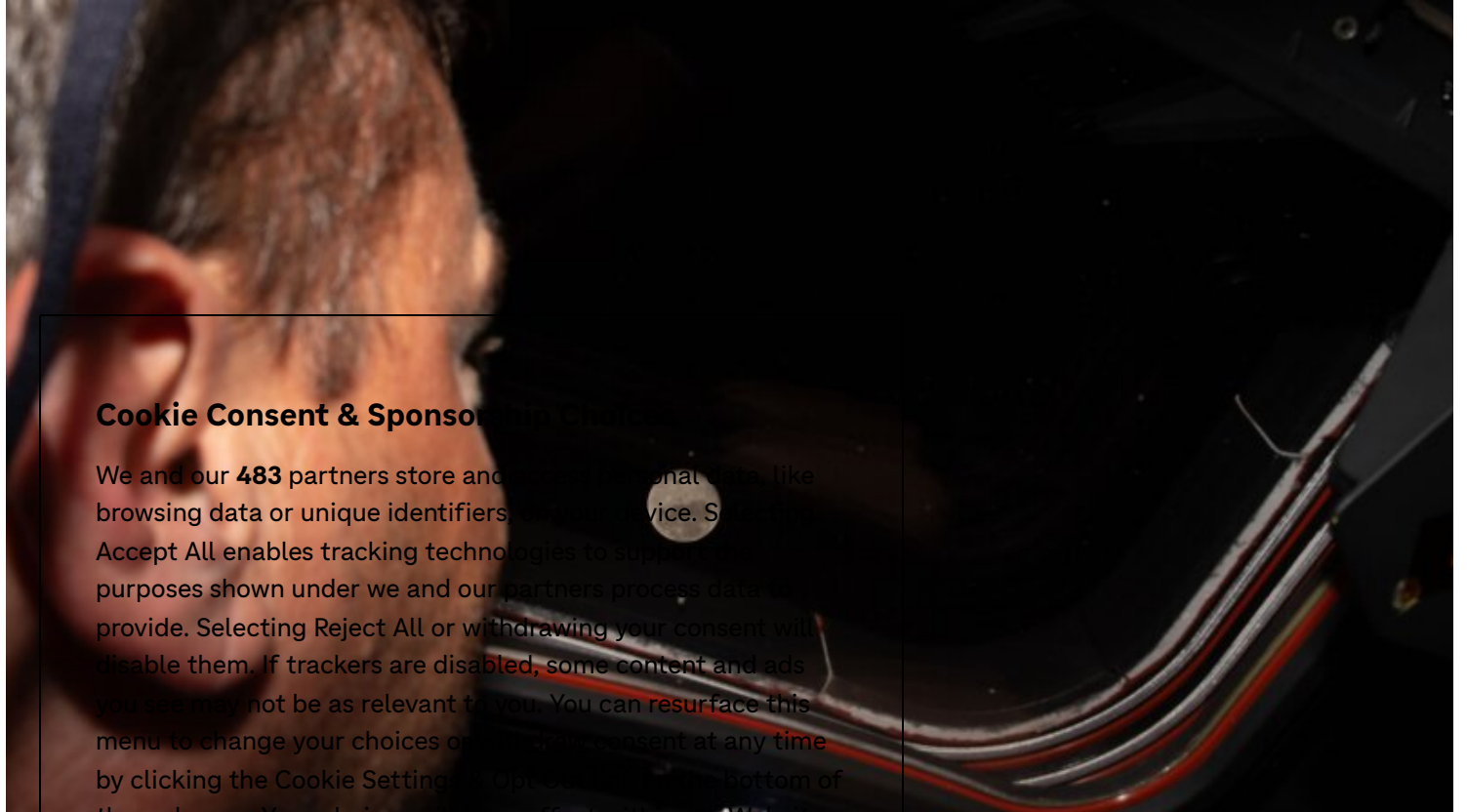
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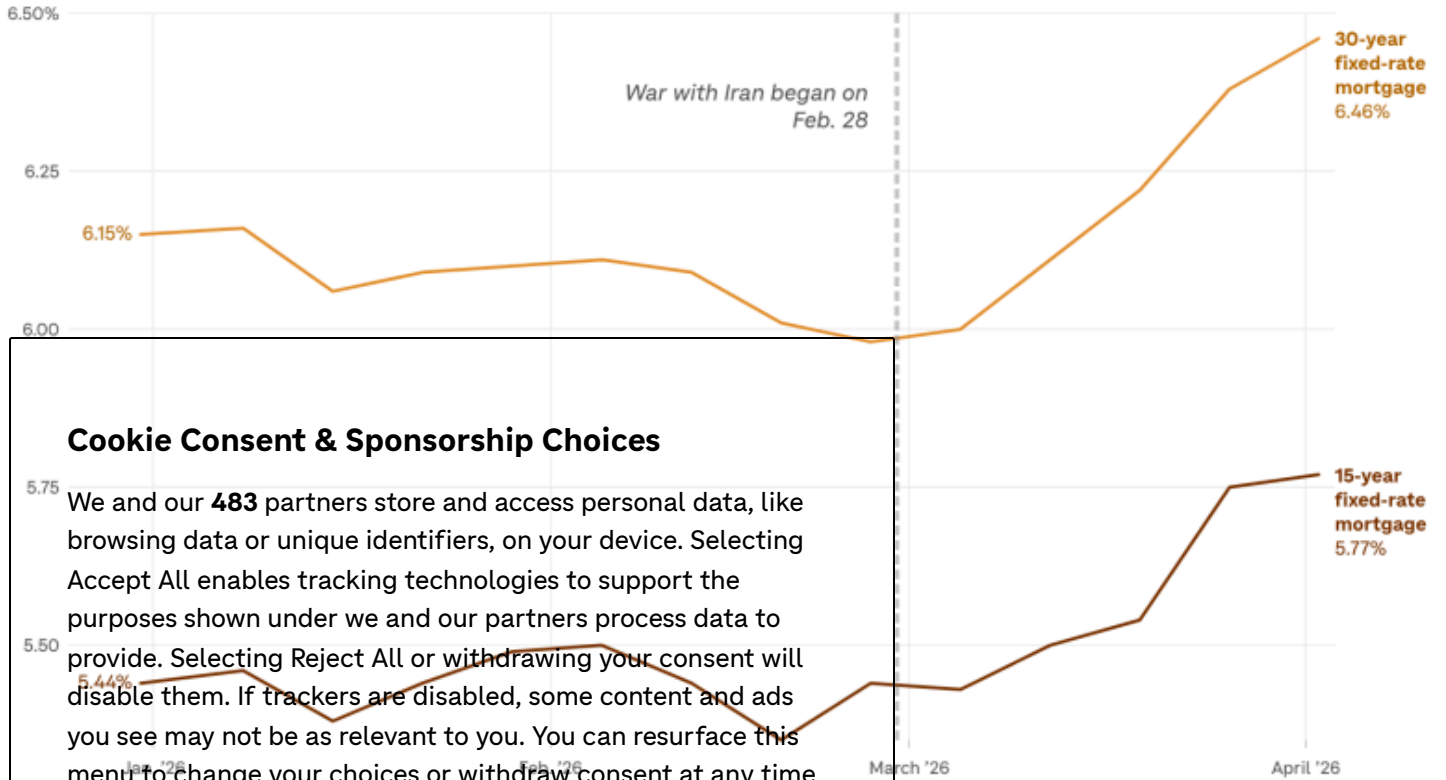


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