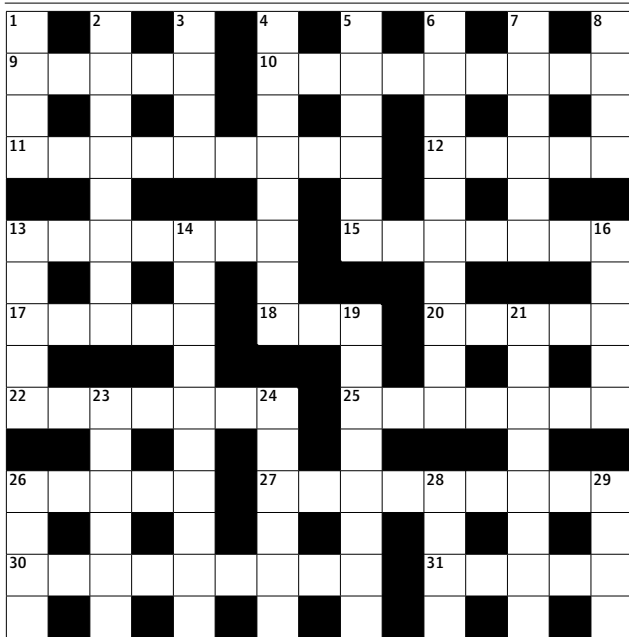


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,930 set by Brendan

Across

- 9 Explosives expert and arms manufacturer oddly responsible for 20 31 (5)
- 10 Offended one FBI operative about political group (9)
- 11 As starter of war, what he is wanting arranged? (9)
- 12 One entitled to 9 20 31 if 17 20? (5)
- 13 Having wise men leading Western state would be wonderful! (7)
- 15 Clear about deity supporting war? That's most convenient (7)
- 17,20 Literary paradox making Tolstoy's work redundant (3,2,5)
- 18 Fictional agreement given to minister, then PM (3)
- 20 See 17
- 22 Collection of documents found to be dodgy ie dross (7)
- 25 Offensive commanded caused anger (7)
- 26 Orwell's name for one elected just before 1984 (5)
- 27 Not a valid defence for a Niger con when demolished (9)
- 30 Harsh way in which torture results, primarily, in limited information (9)
- 31 Value force, from what we hear (5)

Down

- 1 Realise obsessive political analyst is upset (4)
- 2 One who makes short work of a link with ringleader (8)
- 3 Squander money in way that's sad and obscene (4)
- 4 Lord revealing what every schoolboy should know (8)

- 5 Blanket for victim of bombing (6)
- 6 Choose distorted interpretation and get taken for a ride? (2,3,1,4)
- 7 RAF set out to deliver air attack (6)
- 8 Possible withdrawal from Mideast? That's a thought (4)
- 13 Cut nothing in false English WMD version (5)
- 14 Reach GIs in disarray, moving from military position (10)
- 16 Extremes of terror, aim of roughly defined movement (5)
- 19 According to Party slogan, 27 is such power (8)
- 21 Main area that divides Europe and US (8)
- 23 Lots of flights contributing to worst air strikes (6)
- 24 Disclosure in editorials partly controlled (6)
- 26 World leader, so-called (4)
- 28 Flawed conclusions used by warmonger to drop diplomacy (4)
- 29 Former PM at centre of belated enquiry (4)

Solution No. 24,929

B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y	C	H	A	P	E	L
A	E	E	N	E	O	A							
C	O	C	K	T	A	I	L	L	A	B	O	U	R
K	A	U	M	C	D	P	K						
P	O	L	Y	P	H	A	G	O	U	S			
A	L	T	N	T	O	M							
C	O	A	C	H	R	O	S	E	A	P	P	L	E
K	B	A	O	E	R	H	N						
E	N	L	I	V	E	N	E	R	T	H	I	R	D
R	E	E	I	V	O	I							
A	S	C	S	T	E	A	A						
B	O	T	T	L	E	T	I	V	E	R	T	O	N
E	A	U	V	U	E	C							
D	O	G	G	E	D	T	E	A	P	A	R	T	Y