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# Message

Through my visual, I am trying to show the change in military sending over the years globally and in induvial countries. I wanted to show how major event such as the 9/11 terrorist attack and the Iraq war changed how the world worked, making the militaries around the world spend more to project their people. The point is not to show specific values, but rather get a look at the overall trend in spending.

# Narrative Structure

I chose to follow the martini glass route of some author-driven content followed by read-driven content. My visual follows this structure by first taking the user on a “journey through history” by pointing out some major events and times that showed interesting trends in military spending. In addition, some questions are provided to prep the reader for the reader-driven content coming up. During this time, the reader is restricted to only seeing military spending worldwide and can only move on to the next scene. At the end of the “journey”, the reader is introduced to a dropdown menu where they can select a specific country to see that country’s military spending trends. At this point, the reader can freely select the country they wish to view and start making their own conclusions. As such, my visual follows the martini glass structure.

# Visual Structure

In order to help the reader understand the data, I chose to keep my visual on the more simple side. The structure is as follow, the line graph front and center as it is the focus. The additional elements, such as the next scene button and dropdown filter and in the same general area, the bottom left. The color scheme, axes, and labeling are kept consistent throughout the visual to also help the reader navigate. Using transitions, the visual animates the change in value when switching from one country to another, helping the reader get a better understand of the data. For example, by switching from country A to country B, the transition will help the reader pick out certain spikes and dip in the trends. The reader might notice that country A spiked in 1989 but country B spiked in 1993. Those transition and the annotations of the author-driven content help highlight some of the more important parts of the graph for any country.

# Scenes

The are many scenes that I used, but they maintain a level of consistency to keep the reader orientated. My scenes consist of pointing out different details on the same chart. This happens in the form of a short message on the top left of the graph detailing some of the major points in the global military spending chart in chronological order. The scenes are ordered to do the following in order: introduce the reader to the chart, walk through the years while pointing out some major events, and then introduce the reader to the tool they can use during the reader-driven content. My original plan was to have one annotation pop up with each scene. However, due to time and difficulty restraints, I was not able to fully implement that feature. Overall, however, my goal was to give my reader a “journey through history”, which I still feel I was able to do.

# Annotations

The template for my annotations was an arrow pointing to the point on the graph I wanted to highlight with a small amount of text describing that point. This text is different from the text that changes per scene. I chose this template as my goal was to point out a specific point and draw the reader’s attention to it. These annotations help support the message by showing major areas of change or consistency in relation to military spending. My annotations to not change between scenes. As mentioned earlier, I did want them to partially. However, even without them changing, they can effectively point of the sections of the graph I wanted to draw attention to.

# Parameters

My parameters are button that changes the scene and the country displayed on the chart from the dropdown menu. The button changes the state of the visual to the next scene is the sequence, changing the text displayed on screen. It also helps transition the visual to the reader-driven portion, where the annotations are removed, and the reader is free to explore the data. The dropdown menu controls what country’s information should be displayed on the chart and in turn, the scale of the y axis.

# Triggers

The triggers are connected to next scene button and the dropdown filter. When the next scene button is clicked, it triggers a change in the text on screen and eventually the visibility of the annotations. The dropdown menu, when a country is picked, trigger an animation to change the data and y axis tick marks and scale for the country selected. During the author-driven portion, the reader is given a few instructions to let them know how what options are available to them.