Linked Views

For this exercise I used and preprocessed the Global Terrorism Database. Since 9/11 the fear of terrorism has drastically increased. People tend to overestimate the threat of terrorism. Most terrorist activity does not take place in the West - but in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Yet the media is dominated by news surrounding terrorism in the West. This visualization attempts to readjust the view on terrorism. Within a few seconds people can get an impression of how the terrorism threat in their country stacks up against the treat in the rest of the world.

World map
The most obvious choice to visualize the number of deaths world wide is a world map. I've used color coding to indicate the number of deaths. There are large differences in number of deaths, for example, in Sweden, there were 10 deaths in the last 11 years, while there were over 37000 deaths in Afghanistan. To show differences between countries in the lower number of deaths, I capped the legend colors at number of deaths 4000. The viewer can now see that there is a difference between for example the Netherlands and France, but also can see that there is a big difference between France and Iraq. The user can explore the data by hovering over the country, this shows the exact amount of deaths in the last 11 years. For the colouring I chose a simple color scheme, the darker red is associated with more deaths. I find that the colours set the tone of the visualization, without overdramatizing the visualization.

The viewer can click on up to three countries to compare the countries over the years. The main idea is to explore how countries, for example your home country, fair against other countries. The user can press draw (this happens automatically when the user selects three countries) to see a line graph. The line graph is linear; so when comparing a country in the West, one can see that the relative amount of deaths is extremely low. This urges the user to think who are victim of terroristic acts (most terroristic acts are targeted towards people in the same country, e.g. Iraq, Afghanistan). The user can clear the graph and start comparing other countries.

For colors in the line graph. I chose colorblind safe colors.

Overall I tried to keep the colors and visualization simple and let the data speak for itself.