

Lecture 1a

Visualization: History and Examples

[Data visualization · 1-DAV-105](#)

Lecture by Broňa Brejová

René Descartes, La Géométrie, 1637

Introduced Cartesian coordinate system,
similar ideas also Nicole Oresme (14th
century)

L A
G E O M E T R I E.
LIVRE PREMIER.

*Des problemes qu'on peut construire sans
y employer que des cercles & des
lignes droites.*



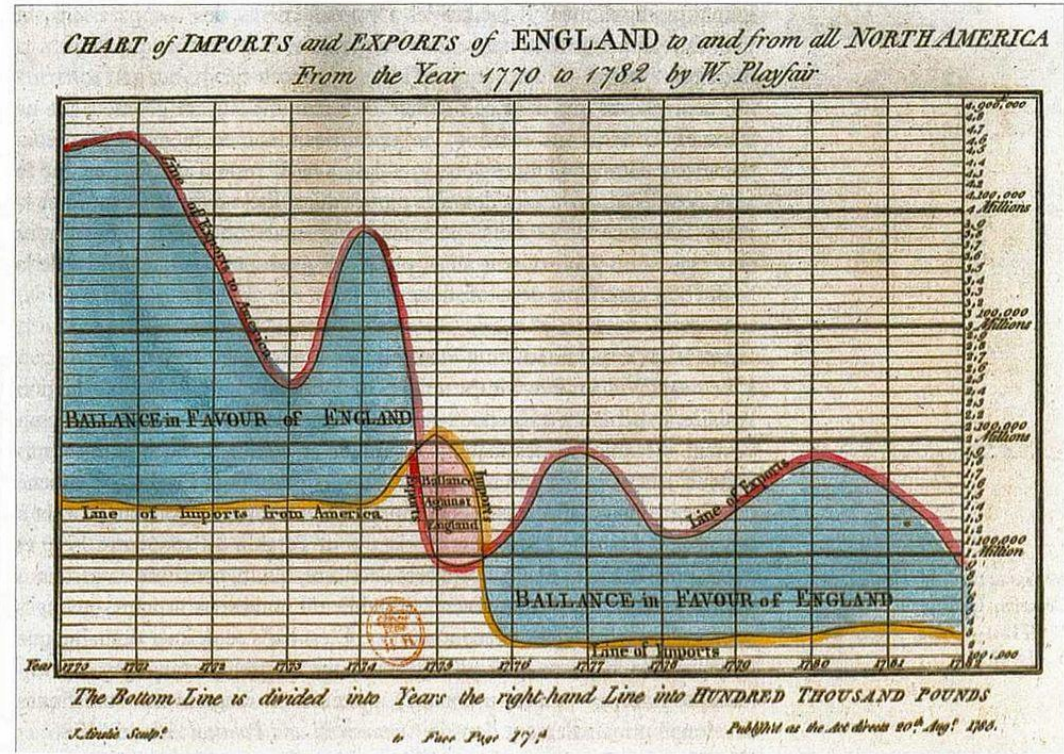
Ou s les Problemes de Geometrie se
peuvent facilement reduire a tels termes,
qu'il n'est besoin par après que de connoi-
stre la longueur de quelques lignes droites,
pour les construire.

Et comme toute l'Arithmetique n'est composée, que
de quatre ou cinq operations, qui sont l'Addition, la
Soustraction, la Multiplication, la Division, & l'Extra-
ction des racines, qu'on peut prendre pour vne espece
de Division : Ainsi n'at'on autre chose a faire en Geo-
metrie touchant les lignes qu'on cherche, pour les pre-
parer a estre connues, que leur en adiouter d'autres, ou
en oster, Oubien en ayant vne, que ie nommeray l'vnité
pour la rapporter d'autant mieux aux nombres, & qui
peut ordinairement estre prise a discretion, puis en ayant
encore deux autres, en trouver vne quatriesme, qui soit
à l'vne de ces deux, comme l'autre est a l'vnité, ce qui est
le mesme que la Multiplication, oubien en trouver vne
quatriesme, qui soit a l'vne de ces deux, comme l'vnité

Commée
le calcul
d'Arith-
metique
se rap-
porte aux
operations de
Geometrie.

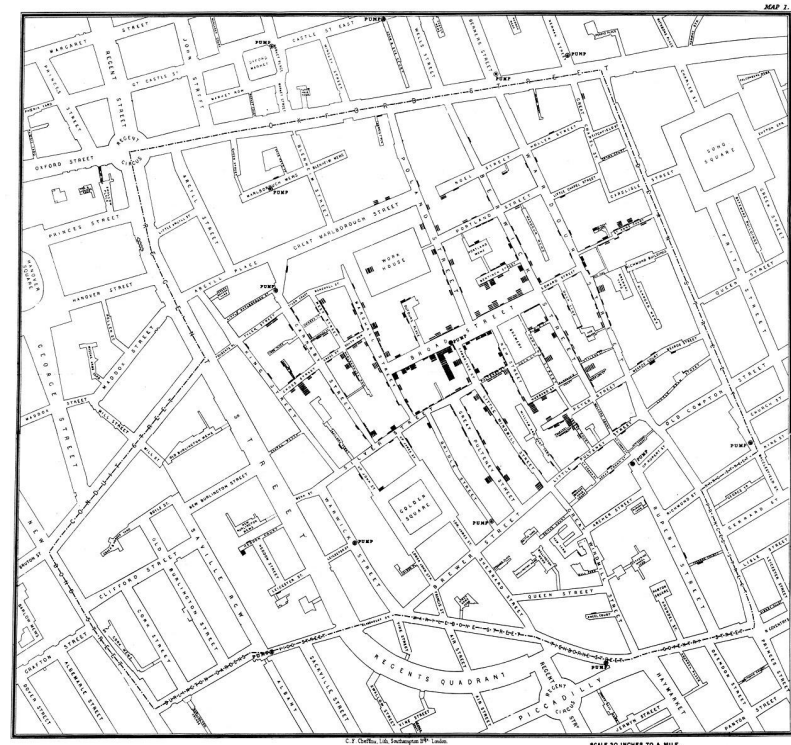
William Playfair, Commercial and Political Atlas, 1786

Playfair invented or popularized different types of graphs (line and area graphs, bar graphs, pie charts)



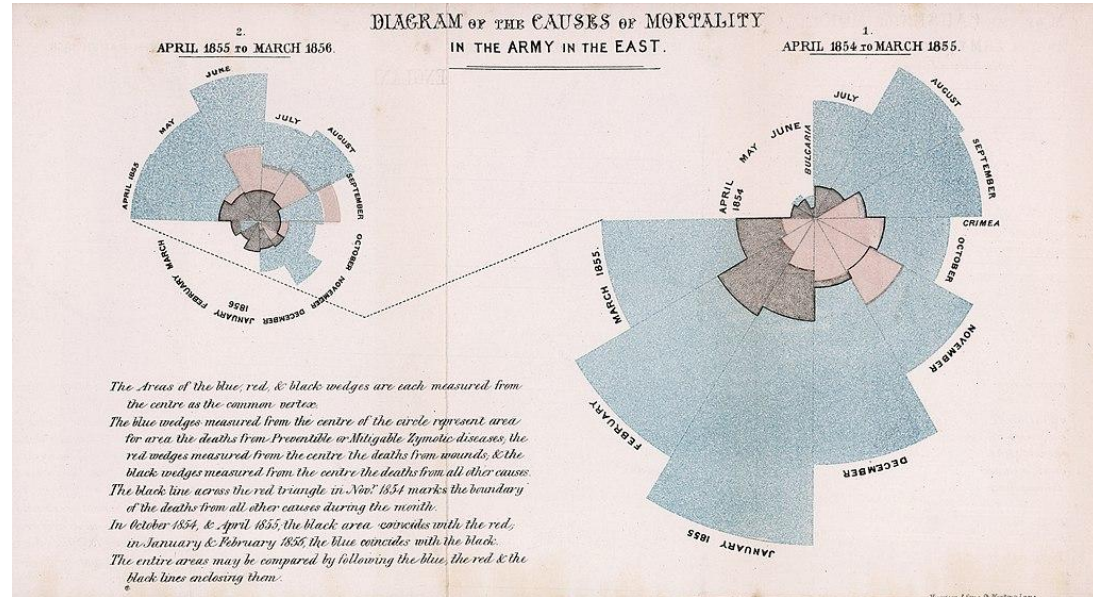
John Snow, On the Mode of Communication of Cholera, 1854

Snow tracked cholera cases in 1854 outbreak and displayed them clustered around a single London well

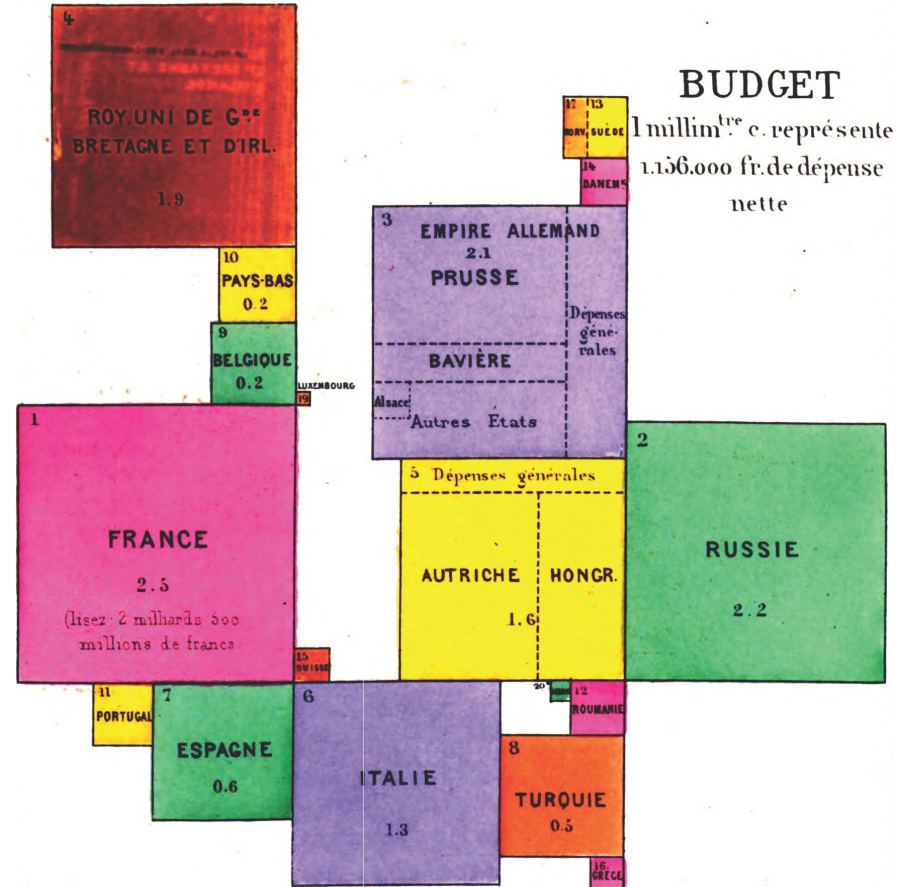


Florence Nightingale, Diagram of the causes of mortality in the army in the East, 1858

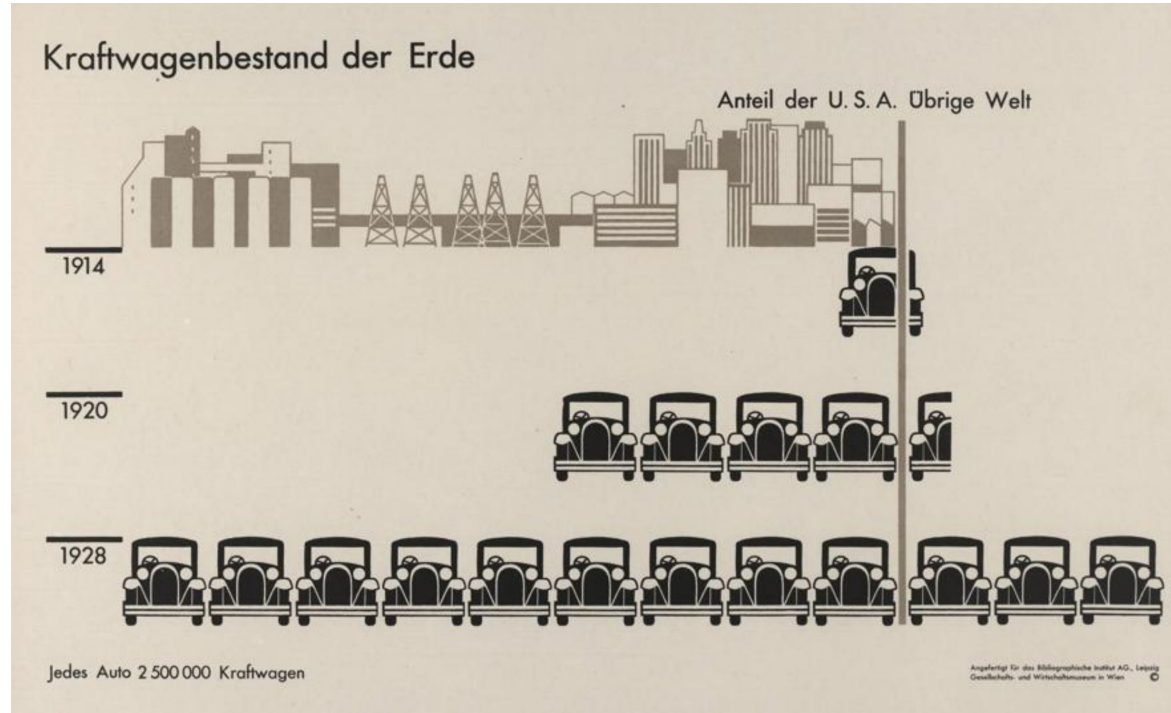
Nightingale led a field hospital during Crimean War, reported to the government on poor conditions causing deaths from typhus, cholera etc



Pierre Émile Levasseur, 1876

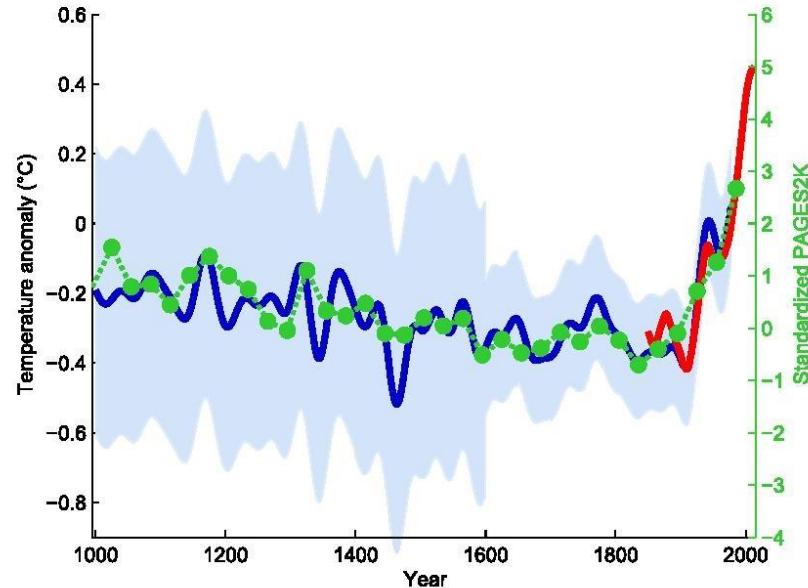


Otto Neurath, Gesellschaft und Wirtschaft, 1930

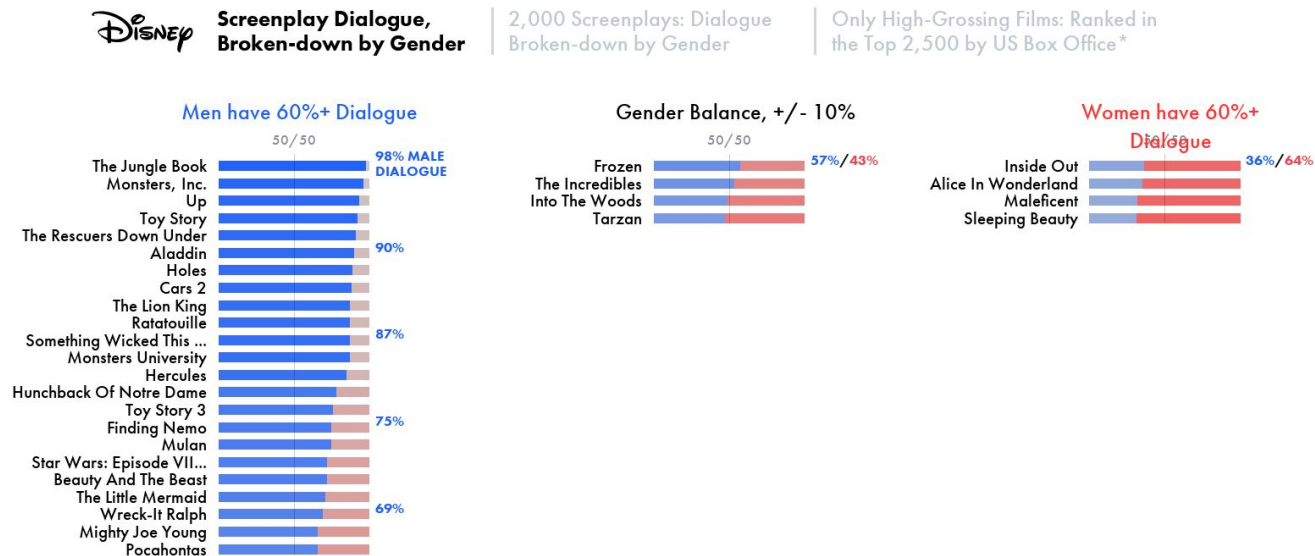


Mann, Bradley & Hughes: Northern hemisphere temperatures during the past millennium[...] 1999

Hockey stick graph, created
publicity and controversy,
featured also in 2001
Intergovernmental Panel on
Climate Change Third
Assessment Report

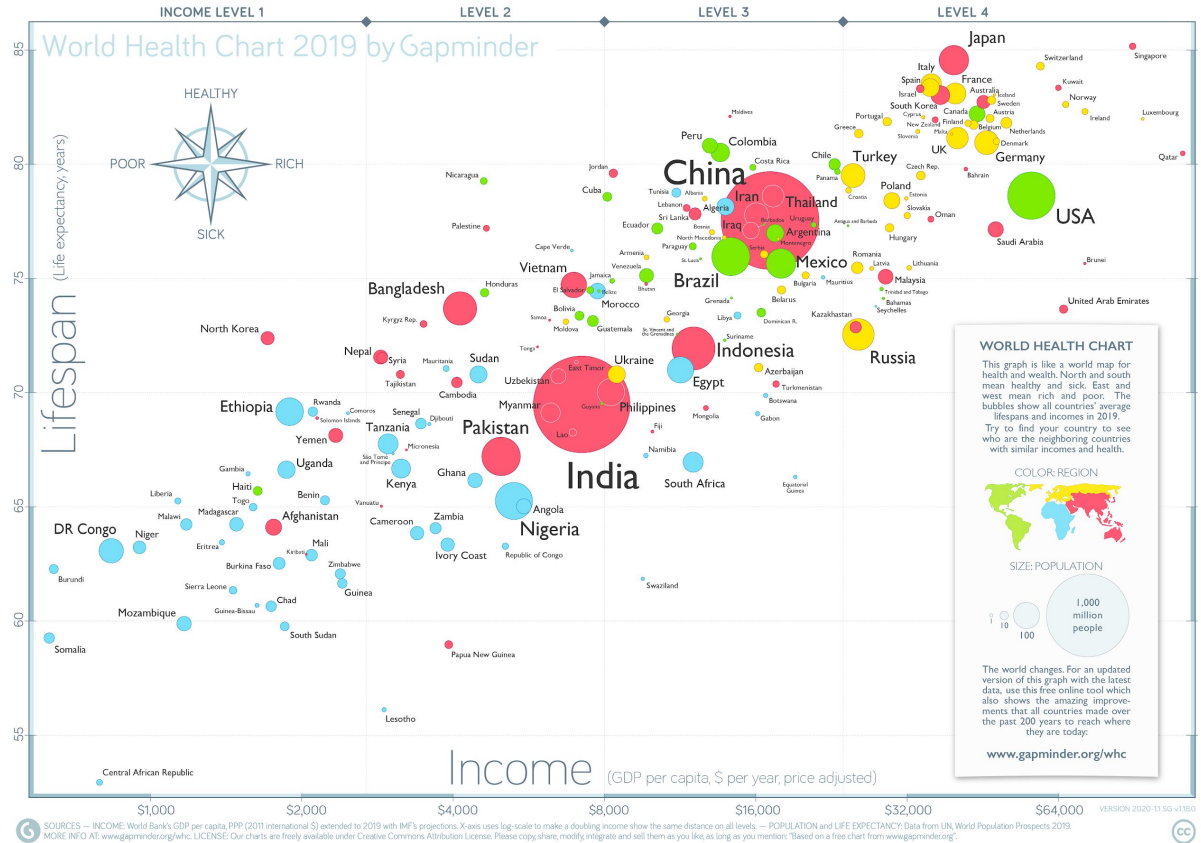


Anderson & Daniels: Film Dialog from 2,000 Screenplays, Broken Down by Gender and Age, 2016



Gapminder foundation, World Health Chart 2019, 2020

Original version by Hans Rosling in his 2006 TED talk



Other recent examples

Deadly pandemics in history

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/history-of-pandemics-deadliest/>

Death from armed conflicts

<https://stevenrattner.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/10.png> ([article](#))

Raw materials in your laptop

<https://www.voronoiaapp.com/natural-resources/Raw-materials-in-your-laptop-1892>

Additional resources

- Tableaux.com: Data is beautiful: 10 of the best data visualization examples from history to today
<https://www.tableau.com/learn/articles/best-beautiful-data-visualization-examples>
- Michael Friendly: History of Data Visualization
<https://friendly.github.io/HistDataVis/>
- Hans Rosling The best stats you've ever seen (TED Talk)
https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen