**Examples of Chart Junk**

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**Example 1:** I was unable to find the exact source for this graph, but the overall message about it being a graph riddled with chart junk is quite clear. There are several problems with this graph: the first, and most important, is that it is essentially unreadable. Across the three axes, (the cardinal sin of graphs), I am unable to discern any pattern from the data because it is in 3D format. The legend variables which depend on colour are difficult to distinguish, particularly against the bright background (as opposed to a blank, white background). The y-axis is not labeled, so the ascending numbers lack meaning. Overall, there are many improvements that can be made to this visualization.

A diagram of a graph

Description automatically generated

**Example 2:** "Monstrous Costs" is a visualization from Nigel Holmes' book "Designer's Guide to Creating Charts and Diagrams." However, there are significant issues with the depiction of House and Senate campaign expenditures. Primarily, both axes lack labels, diminishing the clarity of the graph. Additionally, the data is presented at an angle, distorting the "bar" (or more likely "claw") graph and inaccurately representing the costs. While the creator aimed to illustrate the "monstrous" costs, the resulting visualization only serves to confuse the reader.

A cartoon of a monster

Description automatically generated

**Example 3:** The graph below illustrates military spending in 2013 across different countries. However, it exemplifies chart junk for several reasons. Firstly, instead of using conventional bars to convey the data, the creator opted for bullets, which adds unnecessary distraction. Additionally, the inclusion of shadows serves no informational purpose, merely acting as decorative elements. Moreover, the addition of flags to each bullet is redundant given that the country names are already listed below.

A chart of bullets with different countries/regions

Description automatically generated with medium confidence