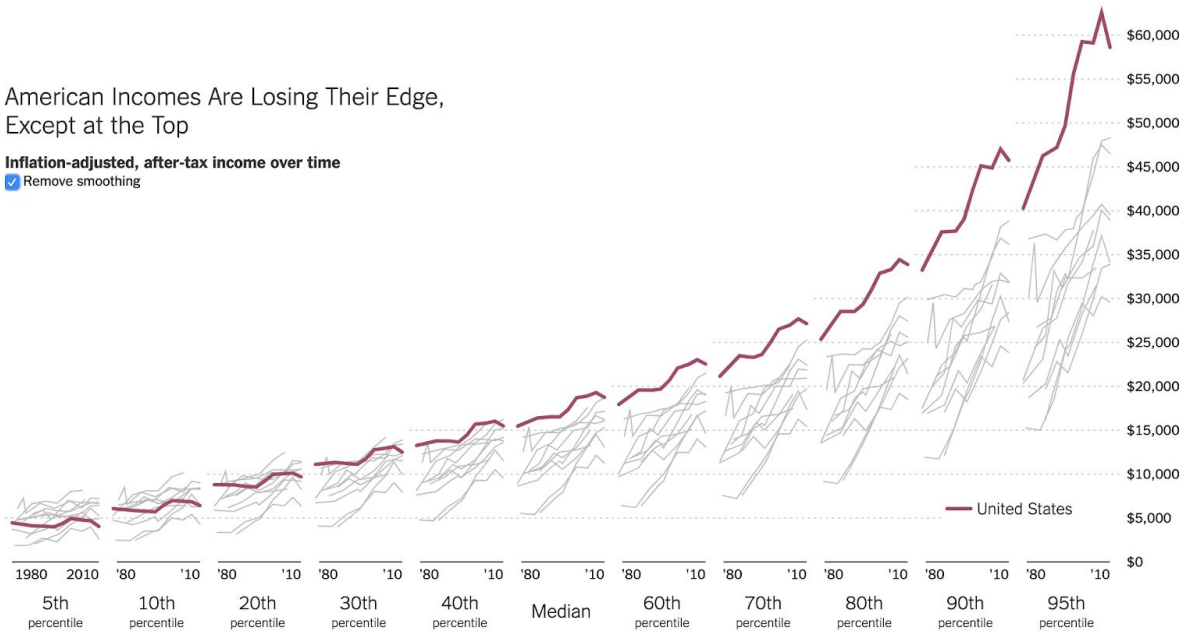
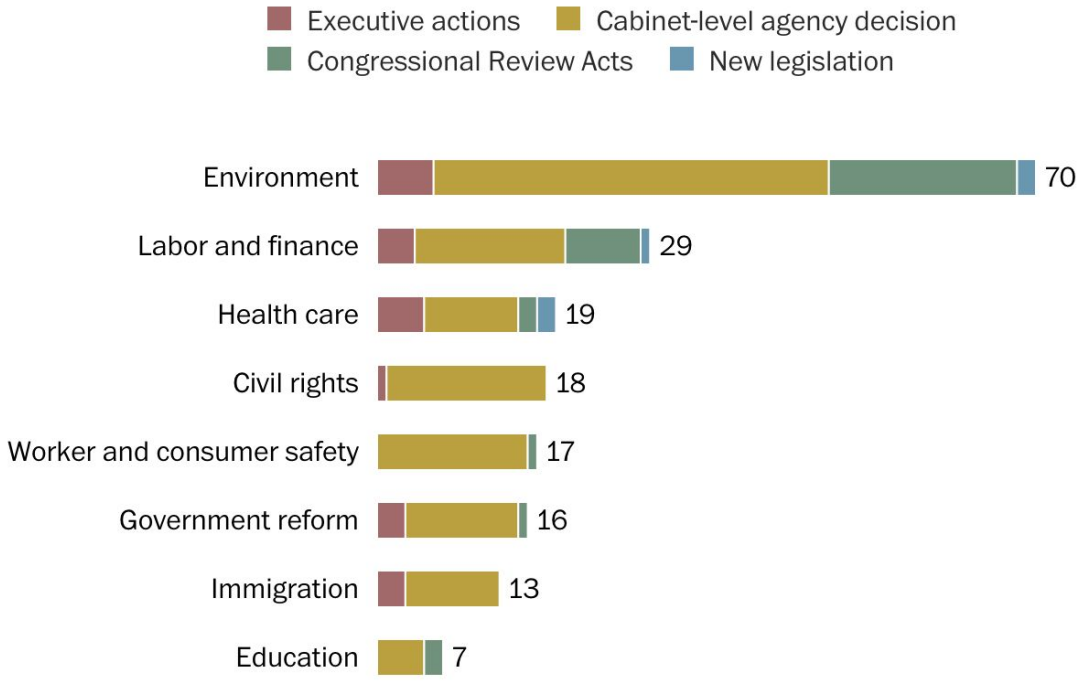


In 2014 dollars

Here's the rules and laws that Trump has tried to overturn in eight key policy areas during his first year in office.



#1
https://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/23/upshot/the-american-middle-class-is-no-longer-the-worlds-richest.html
#2
https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-rolling-back-obama-rules/?utm_term=.3a08feb98991

1. Here I am talking about the first visualization.
This visualization used by the New York Times is attempting to show many different things regarding America's middle class and how it compares to the world.

1. The visualization is trying to make the argument that the median income of America's middle class is not growing as fast as the average median income in other countries throughout the world.
2. The second visualization is making the argument that the wealthier the group (10th percentile, 20th percentile, etc.), the more that group's wealth has increased since 1980. So basically in the US, the rich keep getting richer, especially in comparison to other countries, but those who are in the middle class or below are struggling to see the same increases to their wealth.

2.
This visualization (the NY Times middle class visualization) uses position of the different lines to represent how much money different economic groups make. The visualization also uses color to single out the United States. The visualization also uses slope to show the changing economic conditions over time for those who find themselves wealthy, in the middle class, or below middle class. This last one is very important since that is one of the biggest takeaways from this graph.

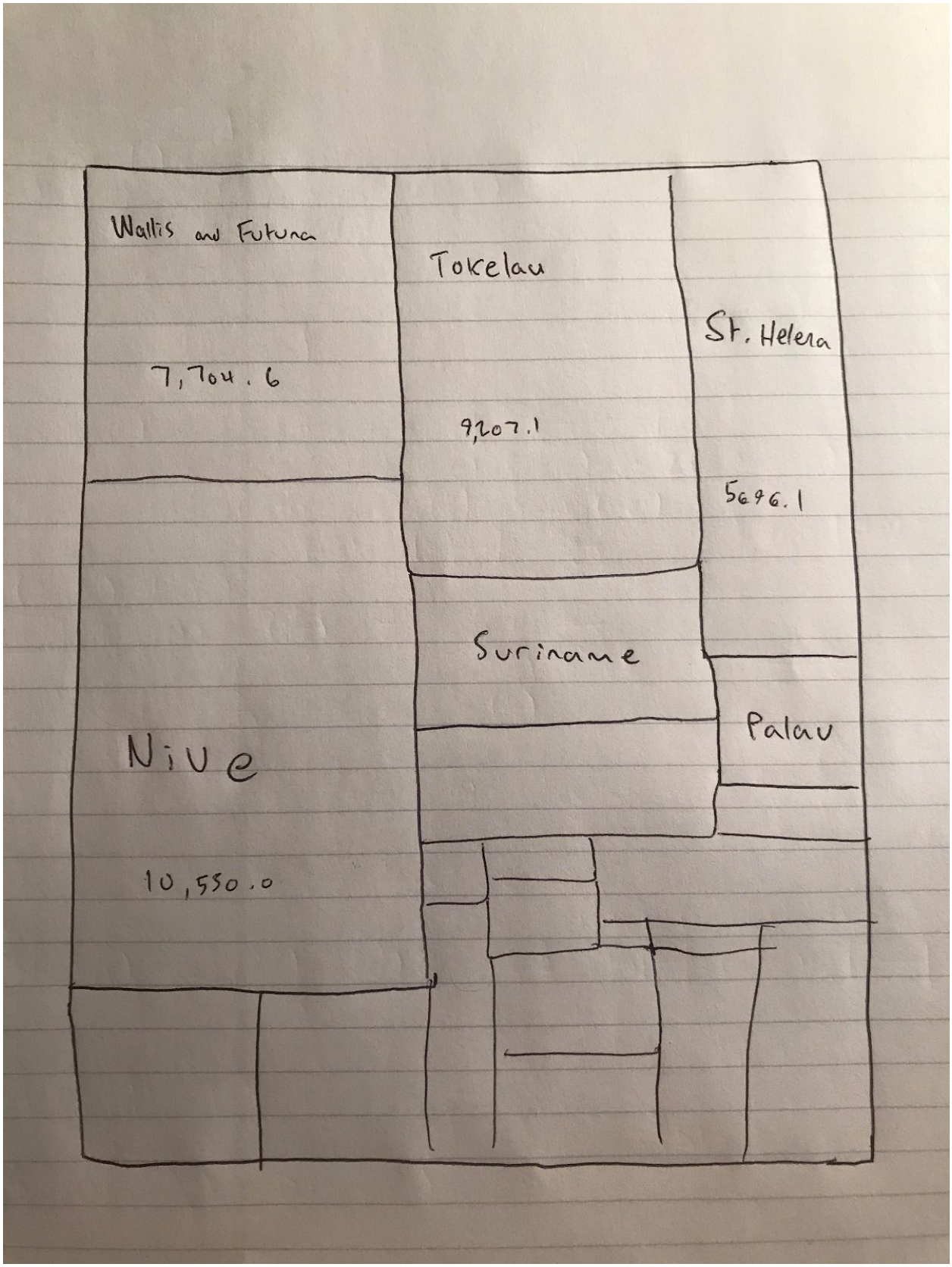
3.
Here I am referencing the first New York Times visualization that is shown above talking about how American Incomes are Losing their Edge.

This visualization conveys a lot of information. When you look at the visualization far away, you can see the growing separation in income between America and the rest of the nations. Up close you can see that at lower incomes, the incomes are not even growing over time. Up close you can also see individual countries and how they compare to the US and different levels. This is an extremely effective visualization because it tells a story when you first glance at it, and allows for more information to be learned the closer you analyze it. The visualization is also extremely visually pleasing. The red line for USA stands out over the grey lines and makes it very easy to pick out USA. The soft grey lines are nice since they look nice and can give more information since it is an interactive visualization.

4.
Here I am referencing the second visualization talking about policy and laws that Trump is trying to revert.
This visualization is simple, but still leaves the viewer with a lot of questions. First off, it is difficult to compare values that don't represent executive actions. The bars for executive actions start on the y-axis so it is easier to compare since they all have the same starting point. But comparing any of the other means of reversing laws, such as new legislation or Congressional Review Acts, is extremely difficult since the bars do not have the same starting point. To make matters worse, there is no x axis so the only way to tell what the bars represent is by looking at the number to the right of the bars. For these reasons, the visualization is not very effective. It is fairly expressive since the user can see basic trends, but that is about it. If I were to make changes to this visualization, I would add labels to the x axis so you can see what the distance of the bars represents. I would also make the bars appear next to one another as opposed to all in the same bar for each category- education, environment, etc. This way it would be easier to compare the bars to one another.

2

Sketch:


Wallis and Futuna
7,704.6
Tokelau
9,207.1
St. Helena
5696.1
Suriname
Palau
Niue
10,550.0

With my sketch above, I used a tree diagram to try and best depict the distribution of aid to various nations in the world. So, basically each rectangle represents a different nation and the size of each nation is proportional to the amount of aid that nation receives. This tree map would only be able to show the distribution of aid for one year though. Additionally, I don't have colored pencils or crayons, but I would like to color boxes differently based on the continent they are from. The reason for this is that many people may not know where Wallis and Futma or Niue are located, so seeing a key to explain where something is generally located could help give context to the visualization. Also, for some of the larger boxes, I also want to add the exact amount of aid received to give more context to the problem so the viewer can more easily make sense of the data.

I think this visualization can answer many questions regarding how foreign aid is distributed. I think being able to see some of the largest receivers of foreign aid will help the viewer understand that there are a few very small nations that receive a great deal of the total aid. Additionally, while this visualization does not give the exact location of different nations, I hope that the different colors can help the viewer see more generally, in terms of continents, where aid is going. This visualization only focuses on one year, but I think it would tell a lot about how aid is distributed for one year. Adding multiple years would make the visualization drastically less effective.

One of the biggest issues with this visualization is that there are so many countries that receive very little aid. This visualization would answer a lot of questions about which countries receive the most aid and which continent they are on, but it makes it quite difficult or nearly impossible to analyze the amount of aid received nations that don't receive as much. Those countries would be represented by extremely small spaces so the user would have a hard time making sense of those spaces. So, that would be one of the biggest issues as far as scalability goes. There are about 5 or 6 countries that receive a great proportion of the total amount of aid. On the one hand, this is interesting since that is something to take away from the data. But, it also means it is hard to gain insights from the smaller boxes and pick out specific countries.

Overall, I think this visualization says a lot about how aid is distributed for one year. The visualization focuses on the nations that receive the most aid and gives less attention to the nations that, comparatively, receive very little aid. I think the numbers located in some of the boxes to give exact values of aid amounts and the colors only help the viewer understand what is being communicated in the visualization.