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ASSIGNMENT: Module 2 – HW 2: Discussion of Select Visualization

URL of visualization: <https://i.redd.it/s3n150imob781.jpg>

Reddit Thread:

https://www.reddit.com/r/visualization/comments/rmzwfy/visualizing_the_94_trillion_world_economy_in_one/

This visualization shows the proportional contribution of the world's largest economies towards global GDP in 2021. The chart splits the world into three regions: the Americas (including the Caribbean and Central America), Europe (including Africa and the Middle East) and Asia (including Oceania). These regions are represented by three respective colors: blue, green and red. A circular graph in the center represents global GDP. It is subdivided into the three primary regions and then further subdivided into proportional segments, which represent the countries with the largest GDP within each region. A stacked bar graph on the left of the chart is used to represent percent GDP by continent. The rest of the economies that were too small to be individually included in the chart are listed on the right.

I believe that this visualization is effective in allowing one to quickly compare the relative sizes of the largest economies in the world. For example, we can easily see that the United States and China are the largest economies in their respective regions. At a glance, we can tell that Germany, France, Italy, and the UK are the largest economies in Europe. I think that this is possible due to the reserved color scheme (only focusing on three colors against a black background) and the way that each country is represented with a proportionally sized segment.

It feels like this chart is made for public consumption. It is visually impactful and informationally dense. However, I do not feel that I would be able to establish any significant relationships from the chart. For example, it is not clear why the US and China are the largest economies – only that they are. Consequently, I feel that the section on the right (economies too small to make the chart) is unnecessary. If the purpose is to show the state of the world at a glance, then this extra information distracts from the larger picture.