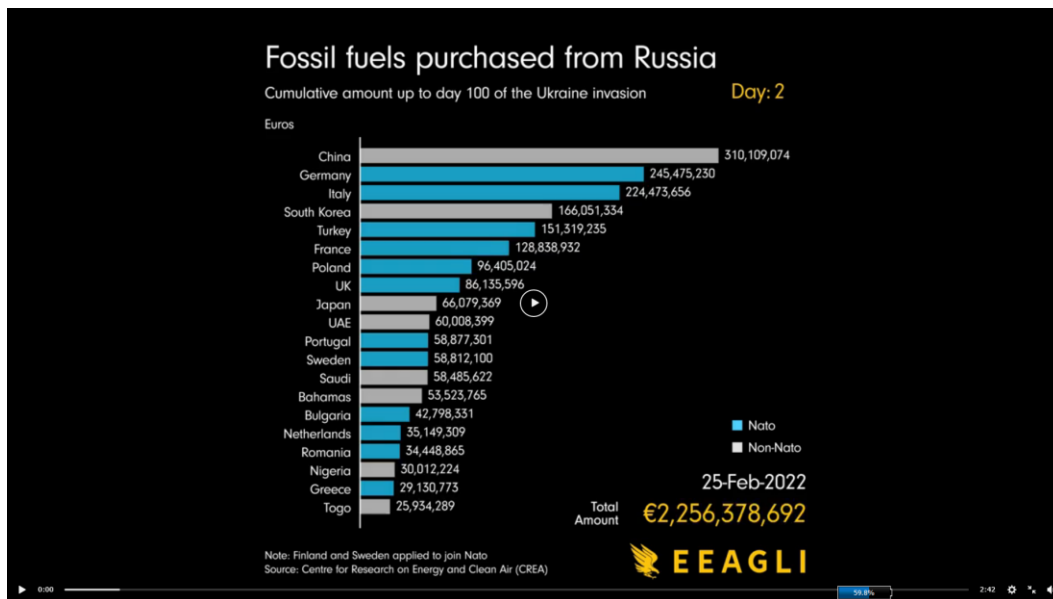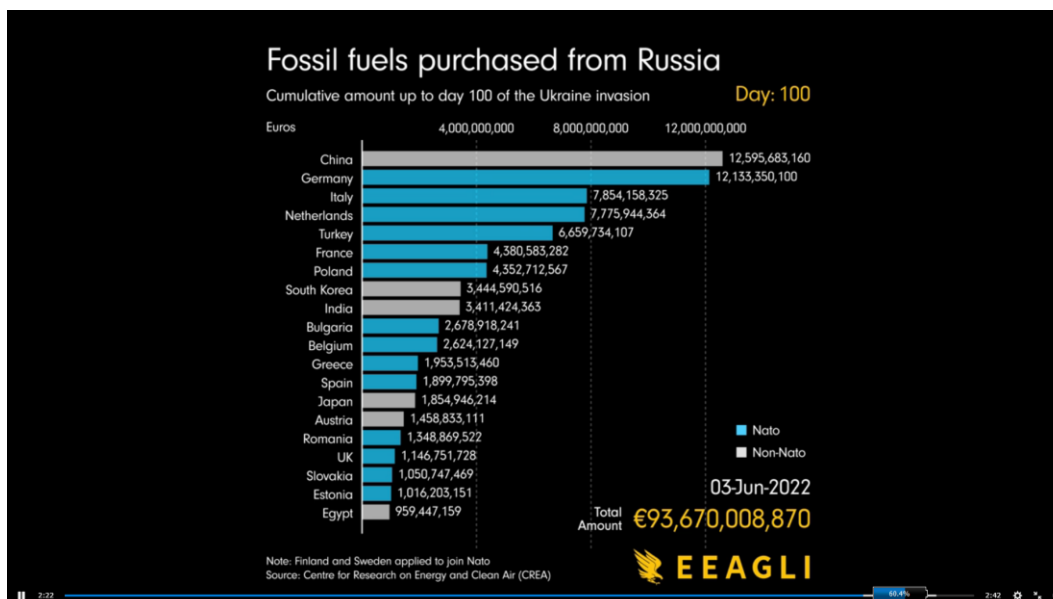<u>Fix it or break it</u>

<u>By Yash Pratap Solanky</u>

Given a choice, I would always prefer to be a good person. But for this assignment, I had trouble finding an example of a visualisation that was meant to mislead people. Hence, I have had to become a bad person.

The perfectly fine visualisation that I will attempt to make misleading is:

Fossil fuels purchased from Russia since the invasion of Ukraine (found on r/Dataisbeautiful) Link

This Visualisation is in the form of a short video. It displays the different countries that have been buying Fossil Fuels from Russia since its invasion of Ukraine. The Image above displays the result at the Day 2 of the invasion and the image below depicts the state of sales at day 100.
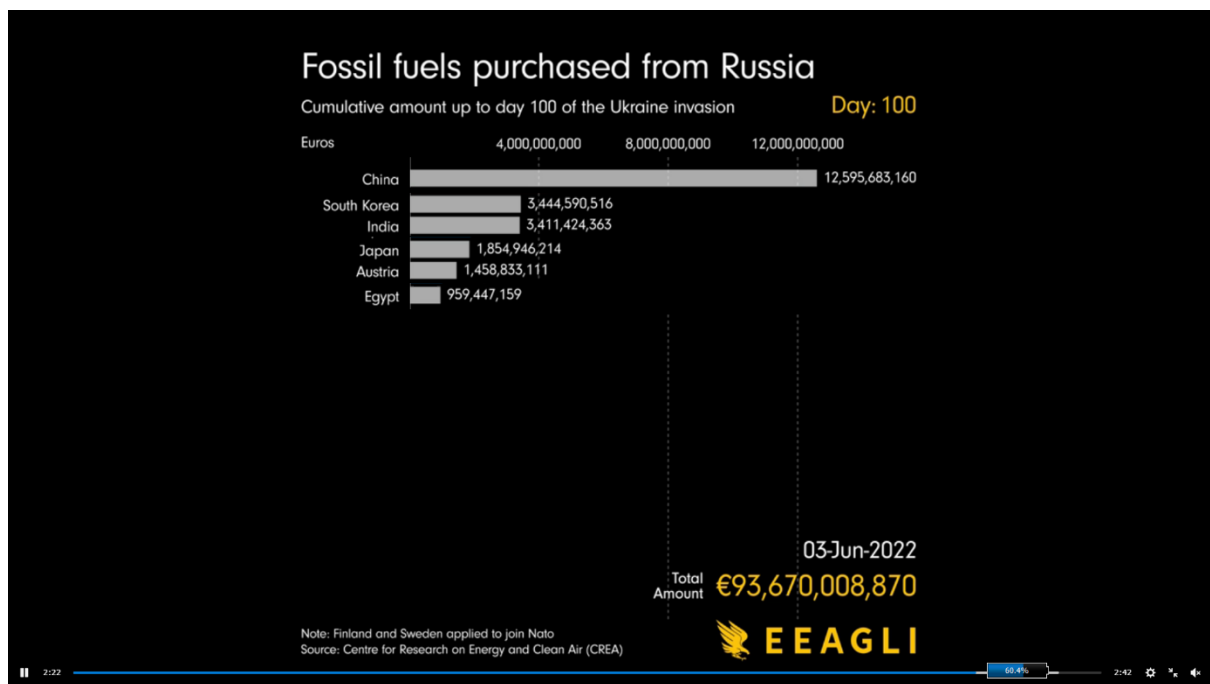
From the 100-day journey, it is clear that NATO countries still seem to be buyers of majority of the Fossil Fuels from Russia. Even though some non-NATO countries still buy fossil fuels from Russia, China being the largest buyer, the majority of buyers are still NATO countries. I believe through just the actual data, the image being portrayed is that Even after setting up sanctions, NATO countries are still buying fossil fuels from Russia.

As with most things, this information can be manipulated one of two ways depending upon the narrative that the visualiser wants to depict.
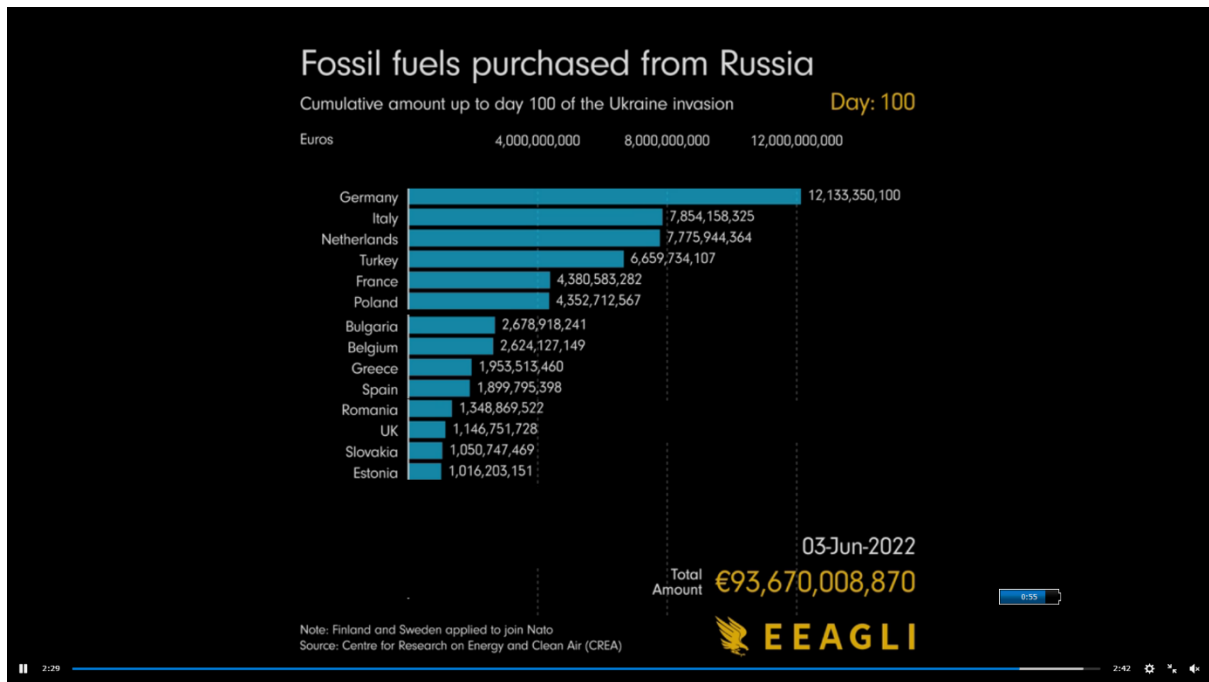
Narrative 1: Non-NATO countries continue to buy fossil fuels from Russia even after it began invasion of Ukraine

To depict this narrative, one simply just needs to remove all the NATO counties from this visualisation and it would appear as if non-NATO countries continue to buy large amounts of Fossil Fuels from Russia even though it is much different from the fact that NATO countries remain the larges buyers of fossil fuels from Russia. To depict this misleading visualisation, I have made some changes to the original bar graph.

Narrative 2: NATO countries continue to buy fossil fuels from Russia even after it began invasion of Ukraine

On the other hand, to depict the narrative that Only NATO countries continue to buy fossil fuels from Russia, one just needs to remove the non-NATO countries and the legend from the visualisation.

Another way to mislead people with this data:

The original visualisation is clear about the dates of the data. As it goes from day 2 to day 100. One way a person might misuse this information is to select just one of the 99 days and depict that information. For example, below I have a section of the visualisation which depicts Germany as the country buying the most amount of fossil fuels. This was at day 54. At the end of day 100, China was at top. But through this method of sharing partial information, one could make it seem like Germany are the biggest buyer of fossil fuels from Russia.