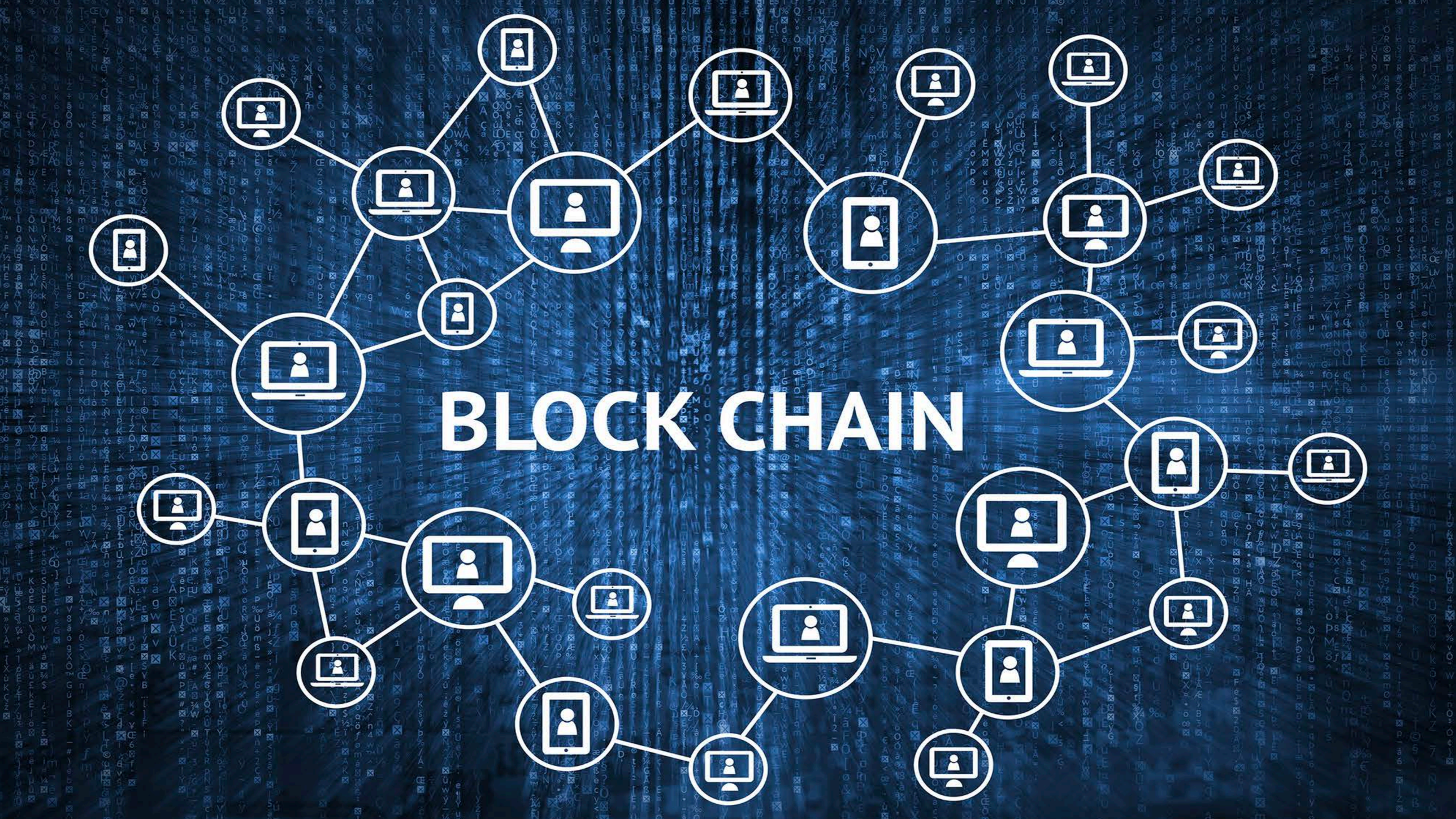
The End of Trust

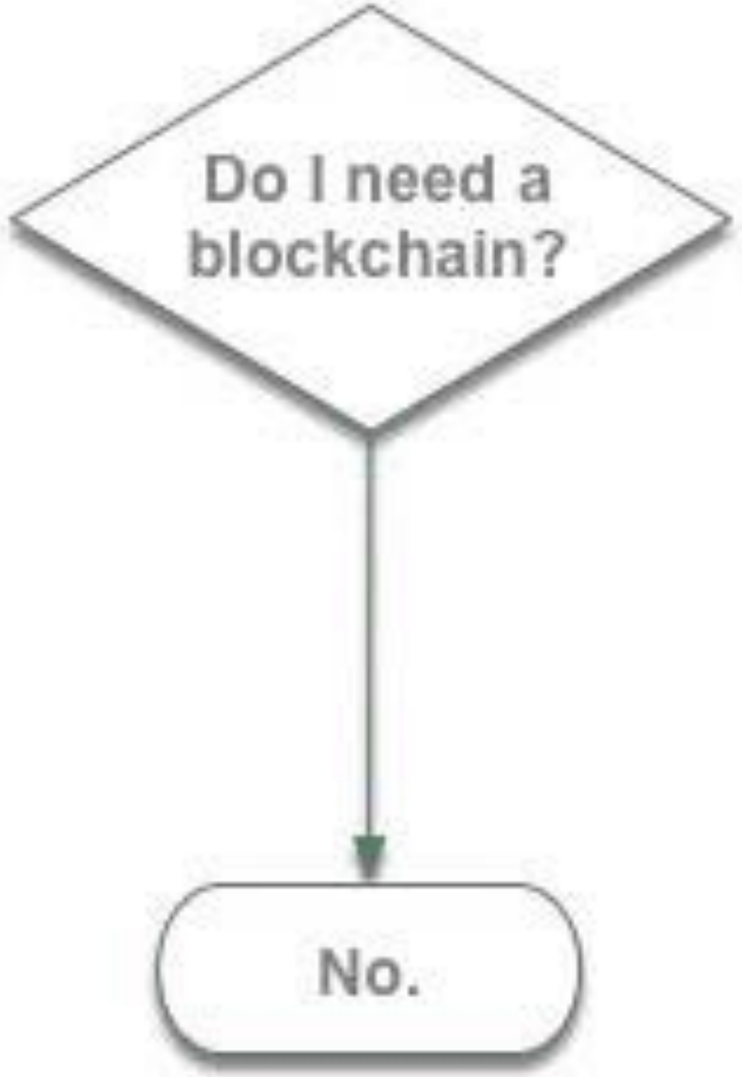
March 27, 2019

Ethan Zuckerman

@ethanz

ethanz@mit.edu

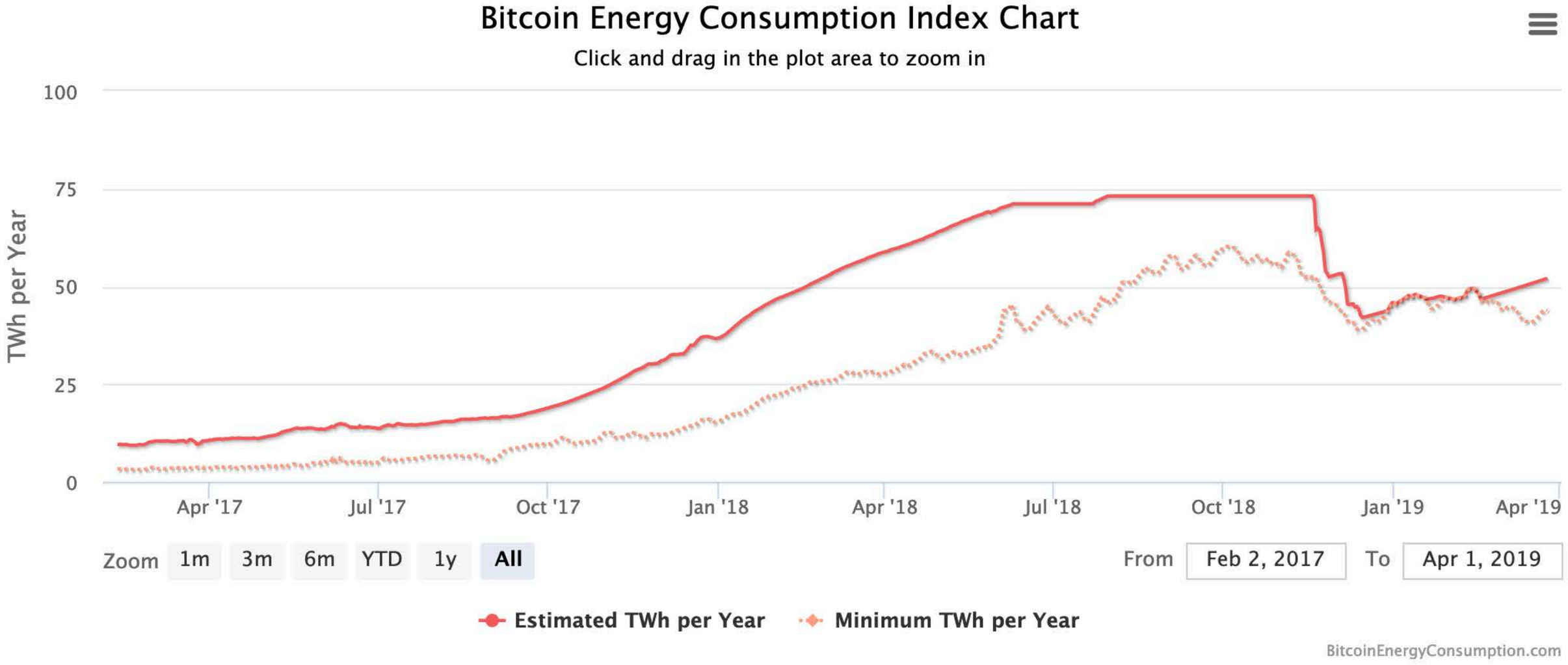

BLOCK CHAIN

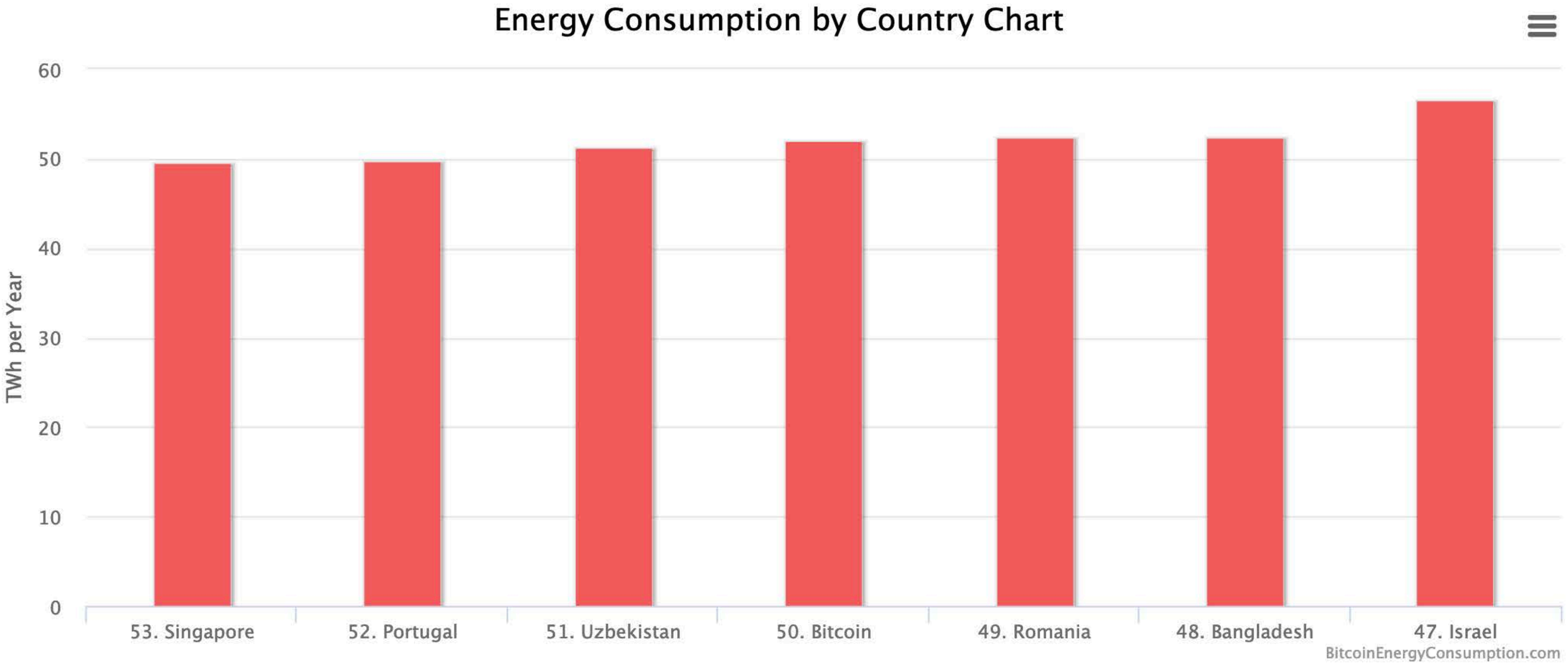


attributed to David Birch

Bitcoin Energy Consumption Index

NEW: Bitcoin Electronic Waste Monitor



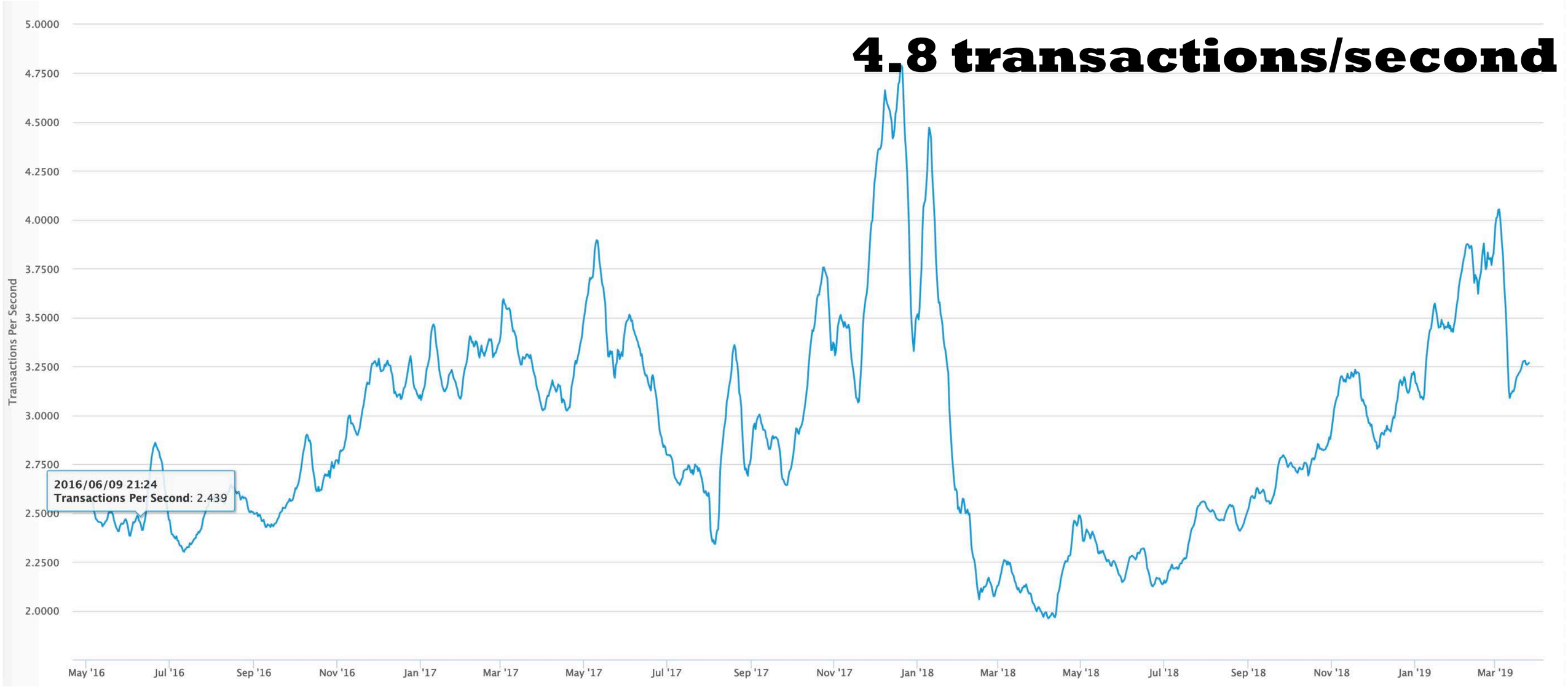

Energy Consumption by Country Chart
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
TWh per Year
53. Singapore
52. Portugal
51. Uzbekistan
50. Bitcoin
49. Romania
48. Bangladesh
47. Israel
BitcoinEnergyConsumption.com

bitcoin

One bitcoin transaction:
509 Kwh of electricity

250km drive:
40 Kwh of electricity

One bitcoin transaction : 3200km driving



Bitcoin transactions per second, 2016-present (7 day moving average) blockchain.com

4.8 transactions per second
43-52 twh/year energy*

~1700 transactions per second
0.187 twh/year energy**

* Digiconomist Bitcoin Energy Consumption Index ** VISA 2016 corporate social responsibility report

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public ledger

reviewable code

distributed consensus

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private ledger

proprietary code

centralized consensus

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centralized consensus

The root problem with conventional currency is all the trust that's required to make it work. The central bank must be trusted not to debase the currency, but the history of fiat currencies is full of breaches of that trust. Banks must be trusted to hold our money and transfer it electronically, but they lend it out in waves of credit bubbles with barely a fraction in reserve.

Satoshi Nakamoto, announcement of Bitcoin 0.1
February 11, 2009

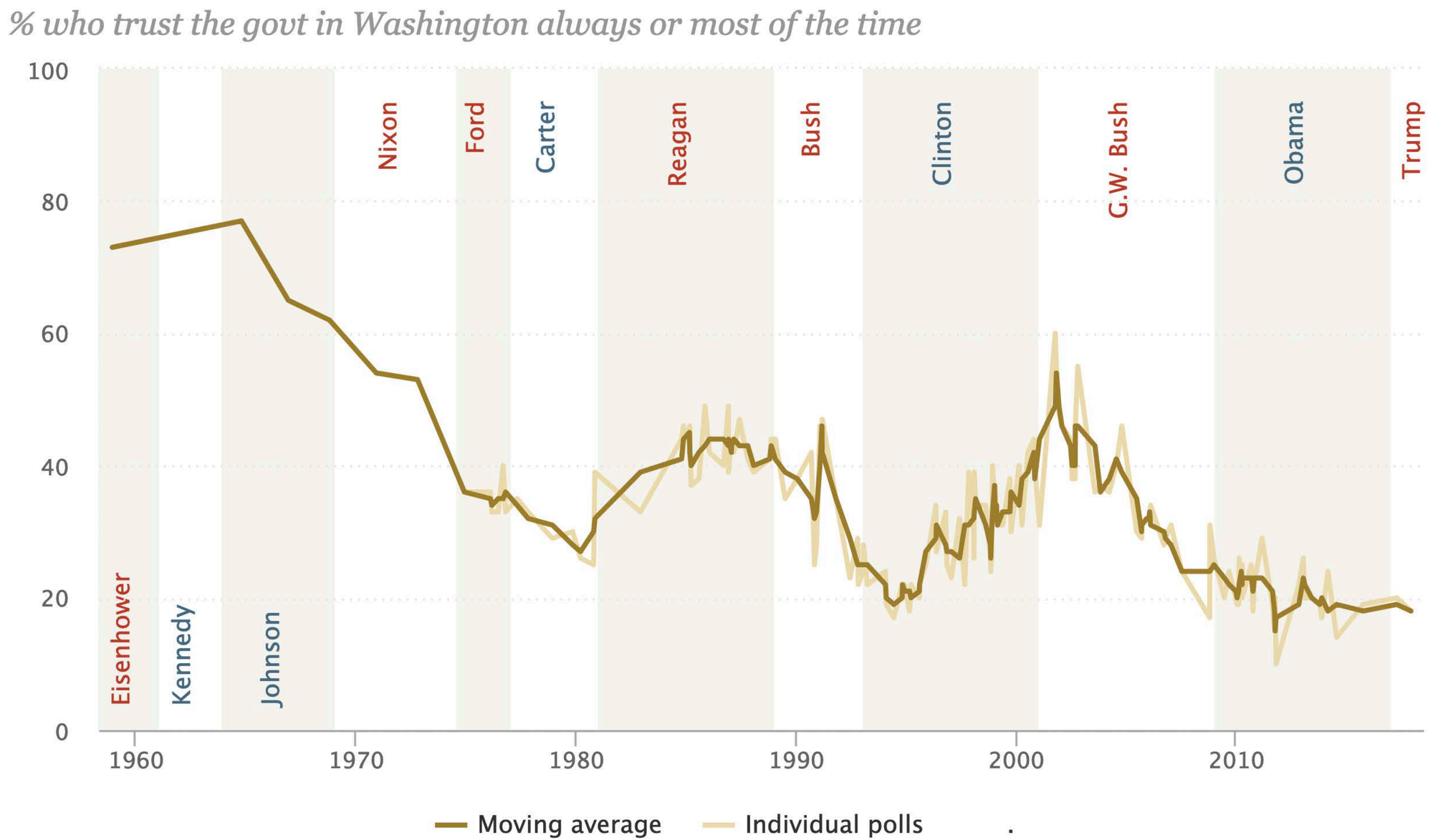
what you don’t need to trust

banks
central banks
governments

what you need to trust

the math
the code
exchanges

bitcoin is about mistrust of institutions

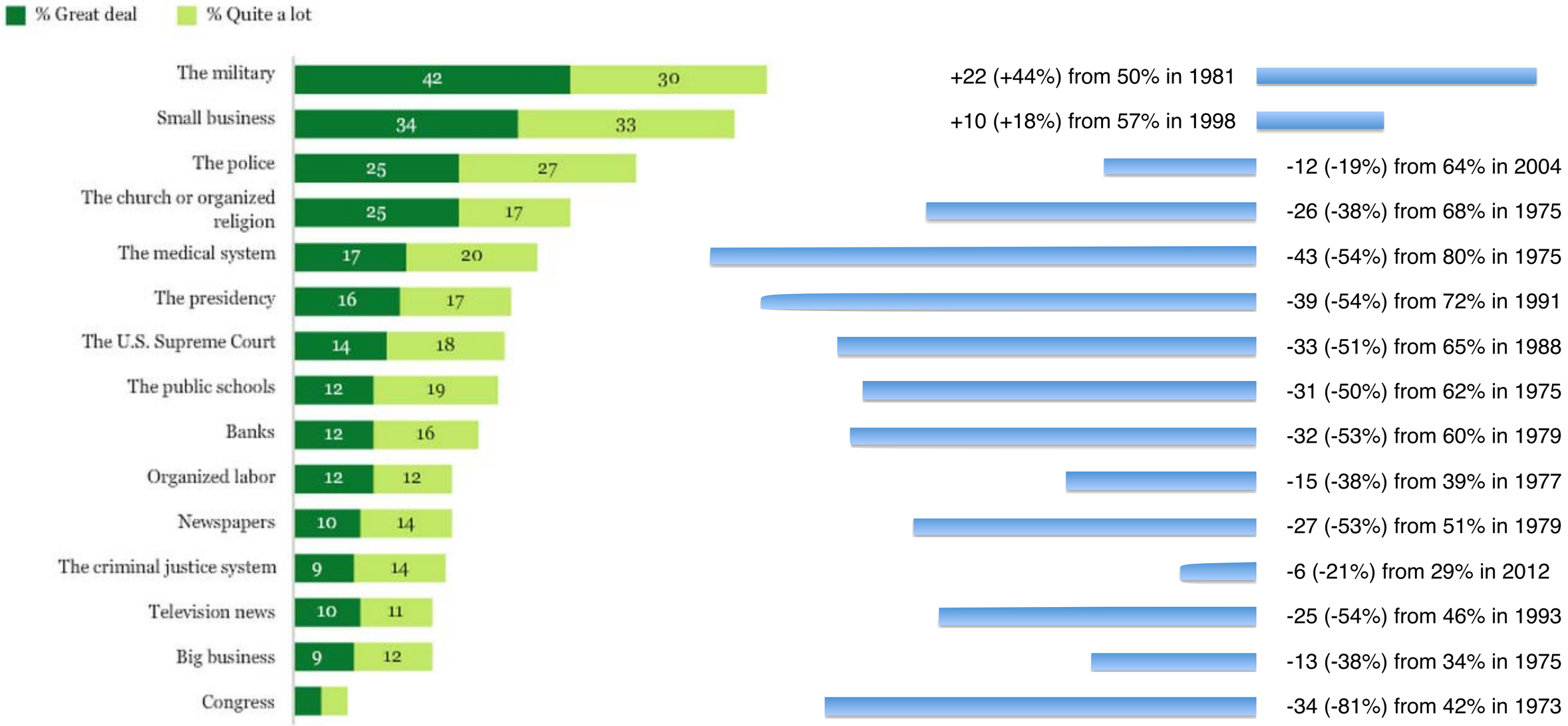


"Do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing all or most of the time?" 77% in 1964, 18% in 2017.

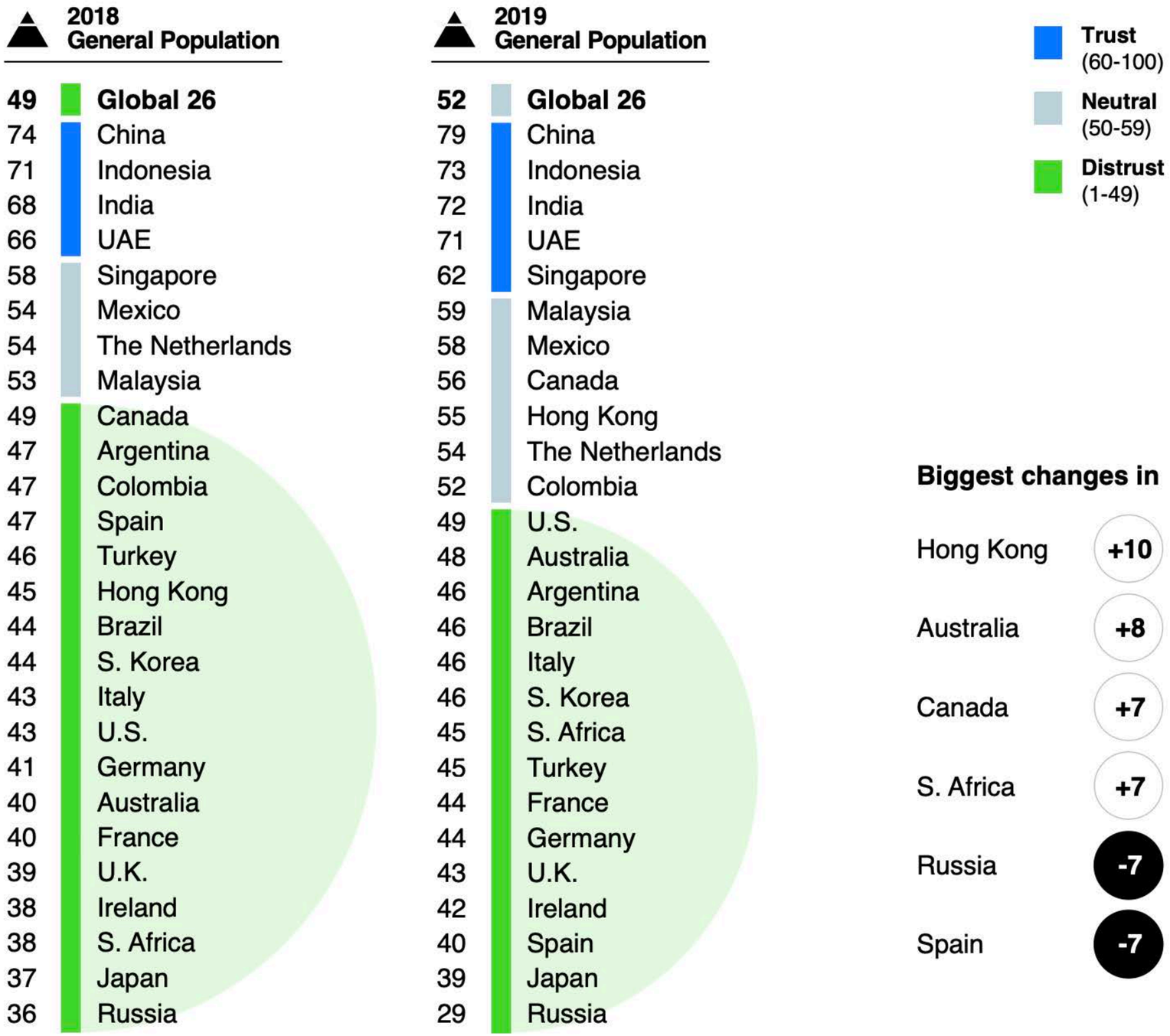
Pew Research Center, Public Trust in Government: 1958-2017

I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one -- a great deal, quite a lot, some or very little?

June 2-7, 2015

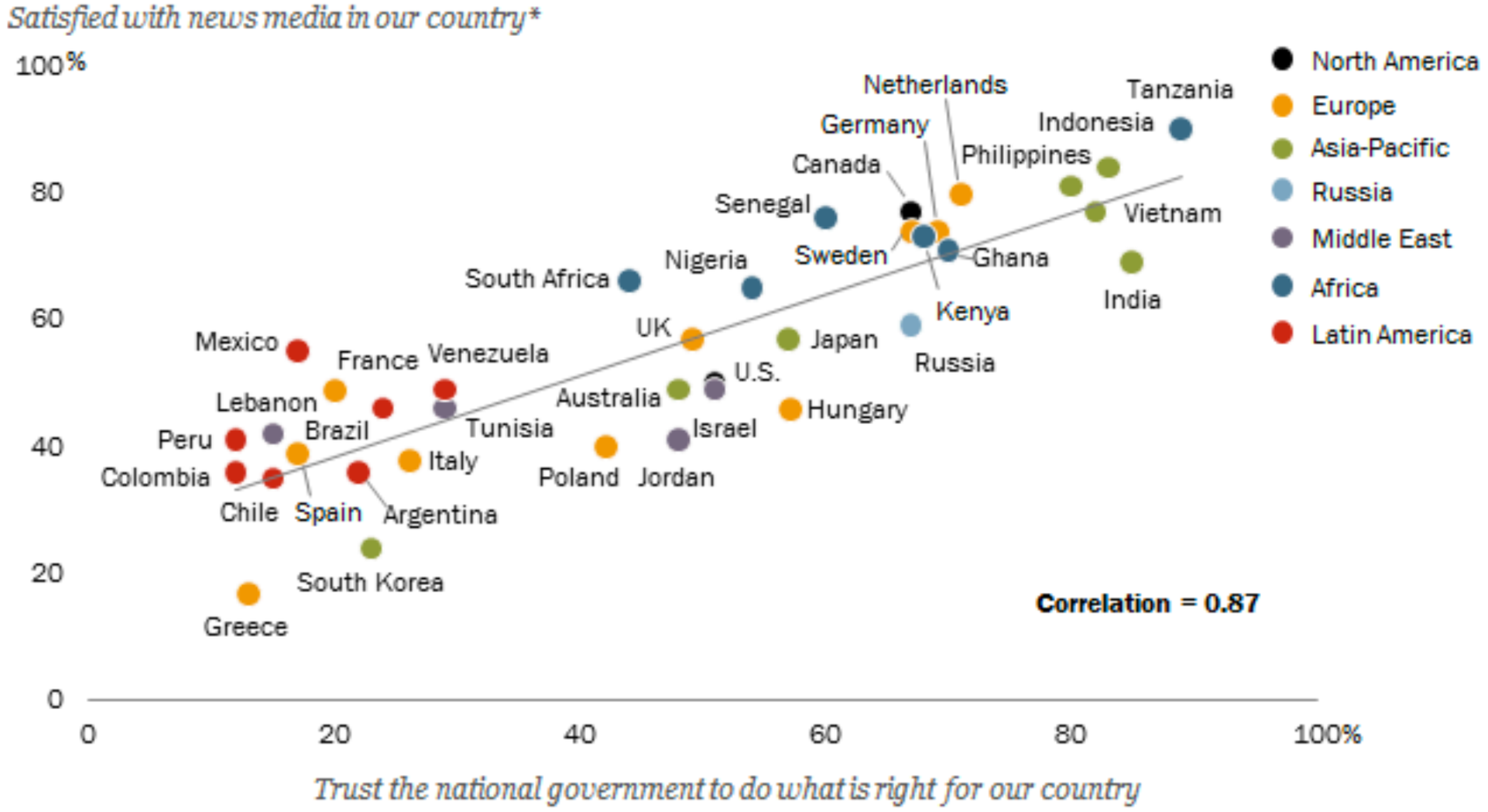


GALLUP



Edelman Trust Barometer

Strong relationship between trust in the government and media satisfaction



*Respondents are classified as satisfied with the news media in their country if they say news organizations are doing very or somewhat well on at least three of the four issues surveyed.
Note: Data for Turkey not available.
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q4 & Q42a-d.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

mistrust is expensive

mistrust creates

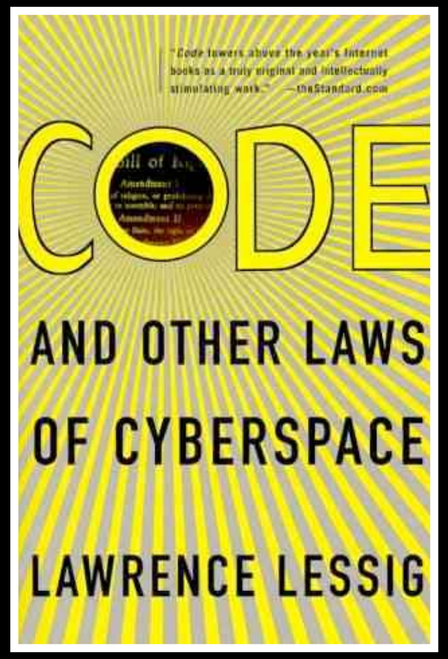
a crisis for civics

Institutionalists want progress through strong institutions

Insurrectionists want better, new or no institutions

right and insurrectionist

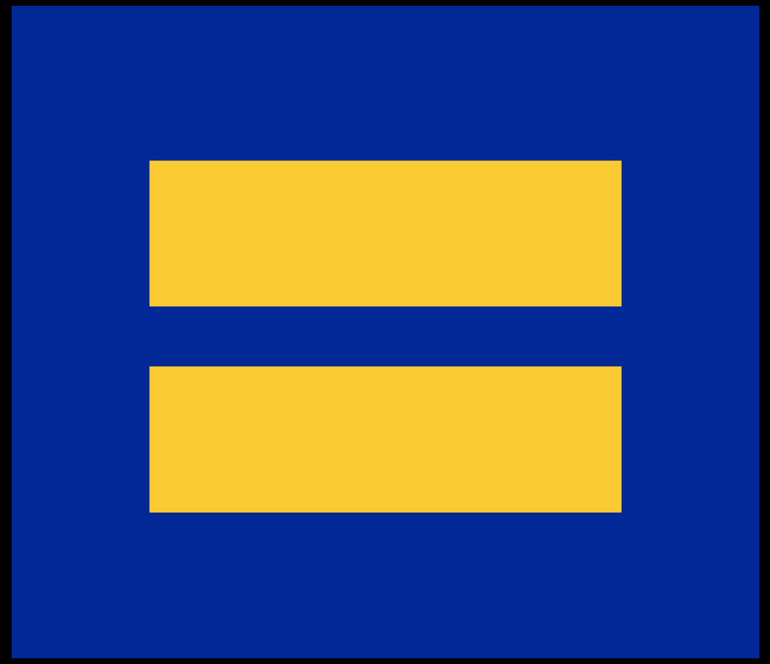
left and insurrectionist



law norms

markets code

law

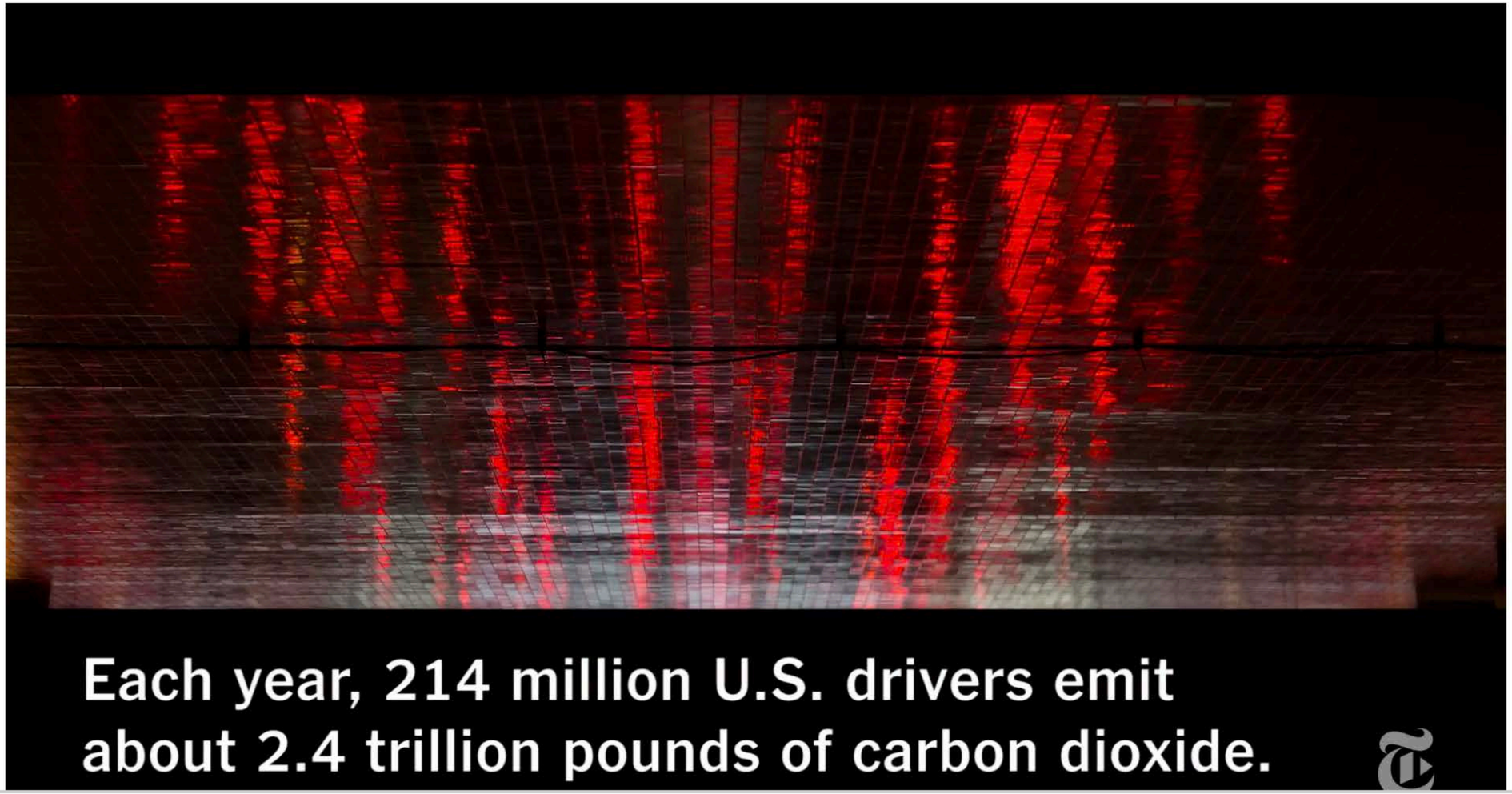


norms

markets

code

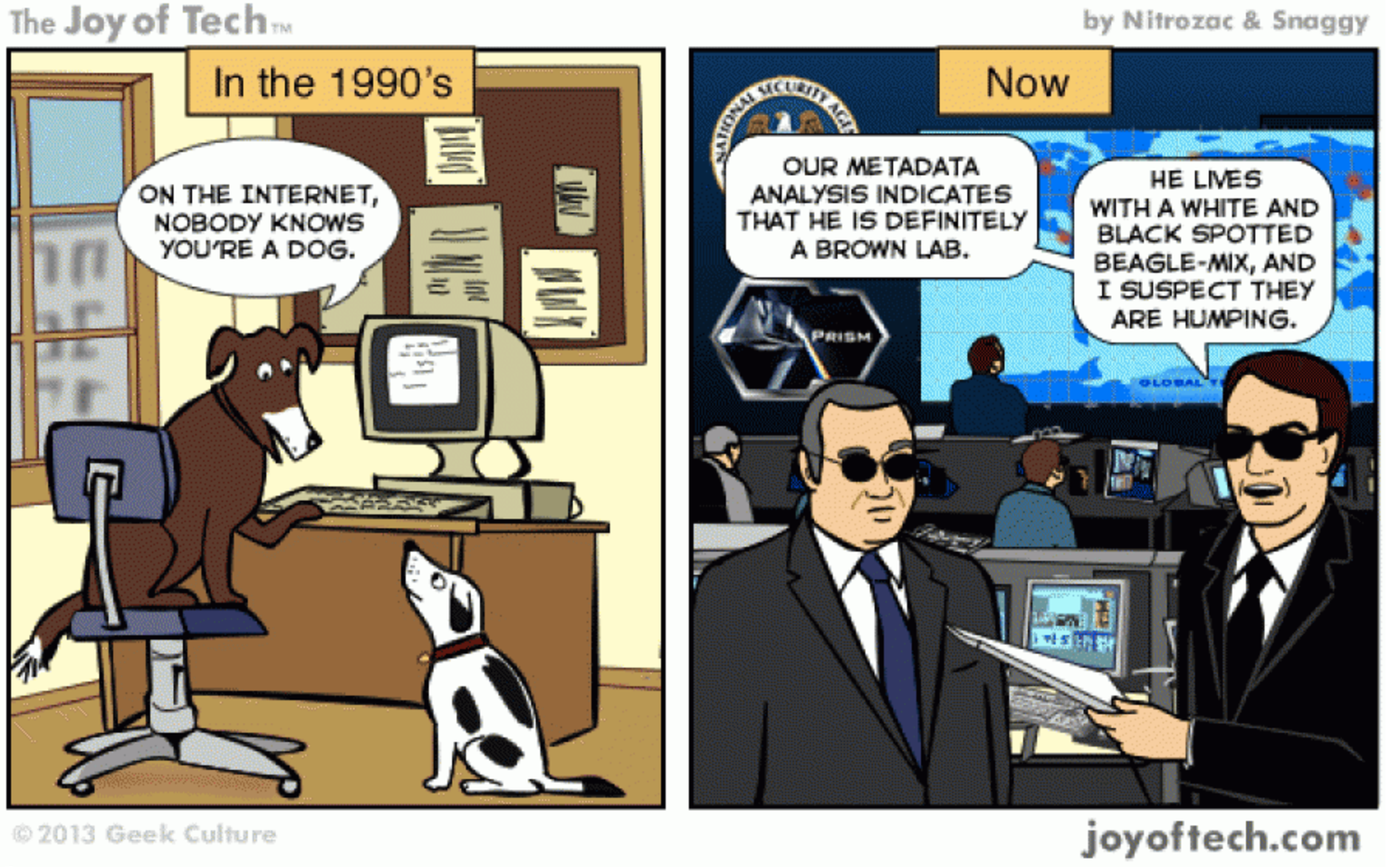
Trump Administration Unveils Its Plan to Relax Car Pollution Rules



TESLA

markets

cartoon by Peter Steiner



code

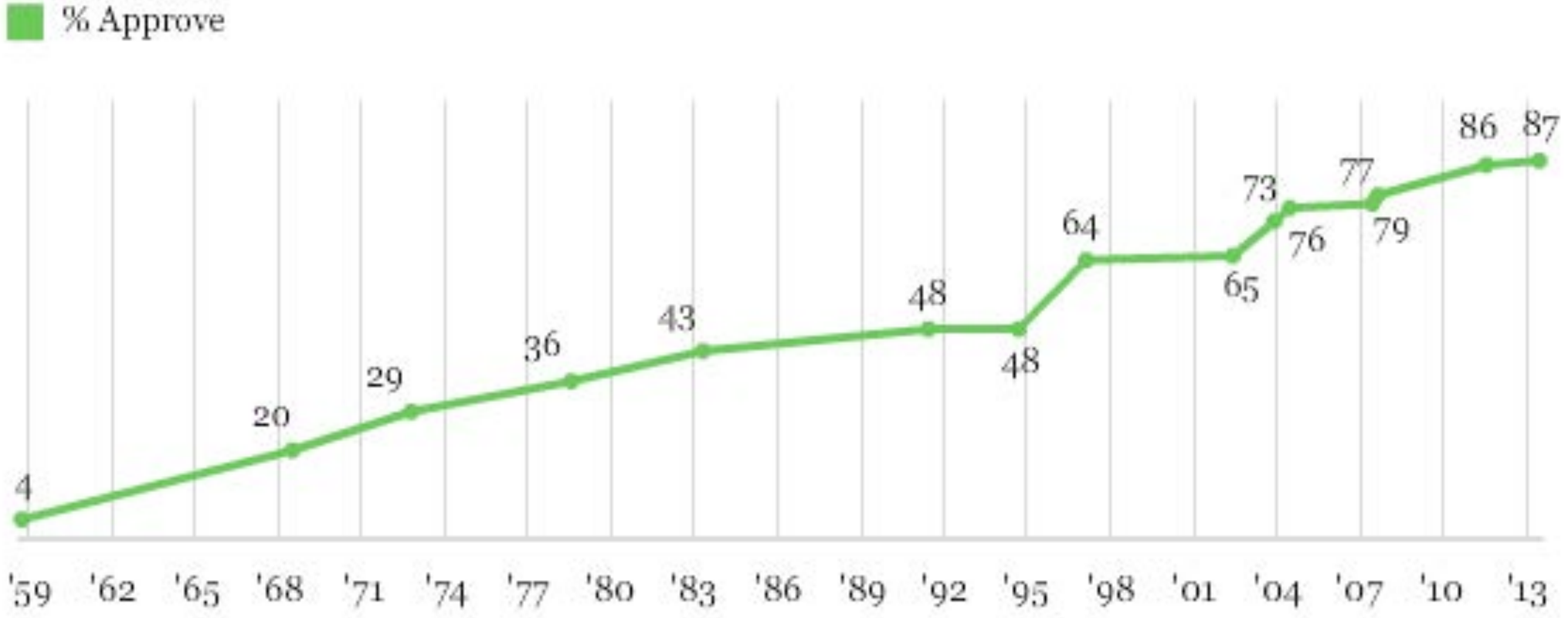
law

DO NOT
DENY US
FREEDOM FOR
EVERYONE
Marriage
EQUALITY

PROUD
OF
MY FAMILY
JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

law

Do you approve or disapprove of marriage between blacks and whites?



1958 wording: "... marriages between white and colored people"
1968-1978 wording: "... marriages between whites and nonwhites"

GALLUP

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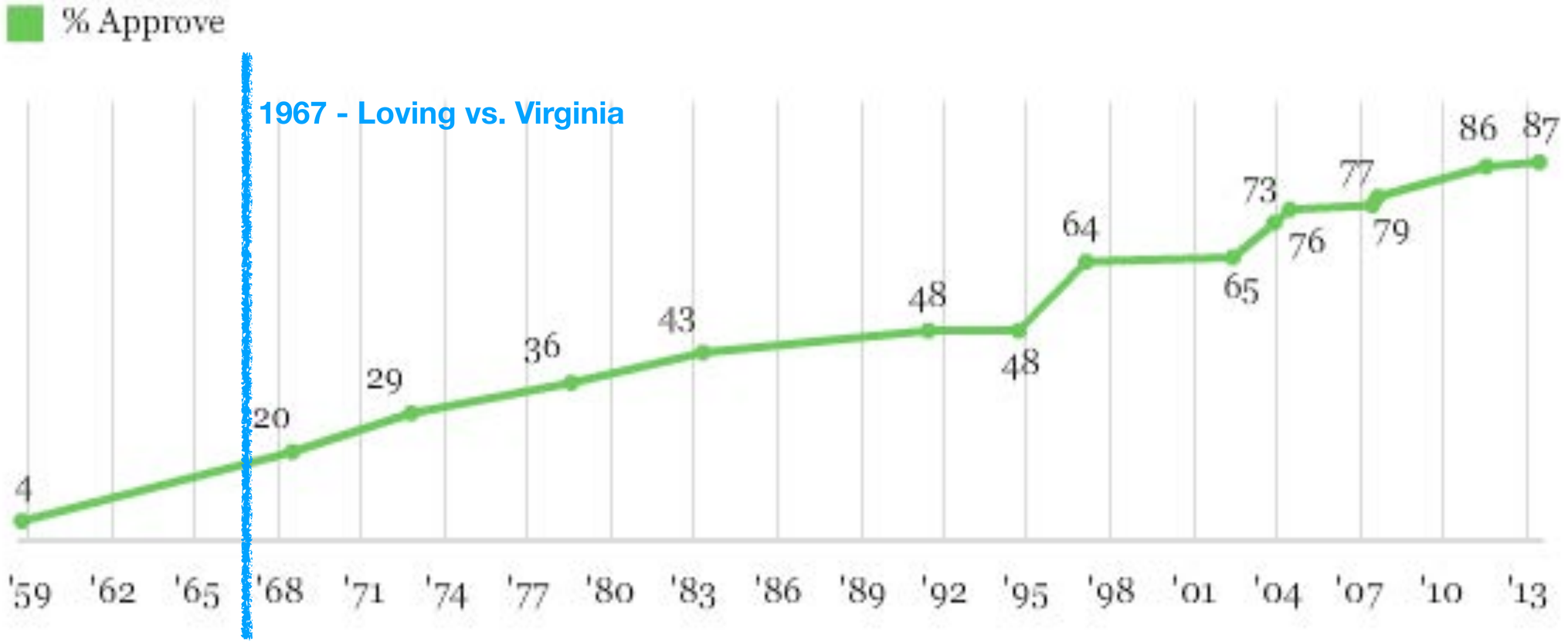

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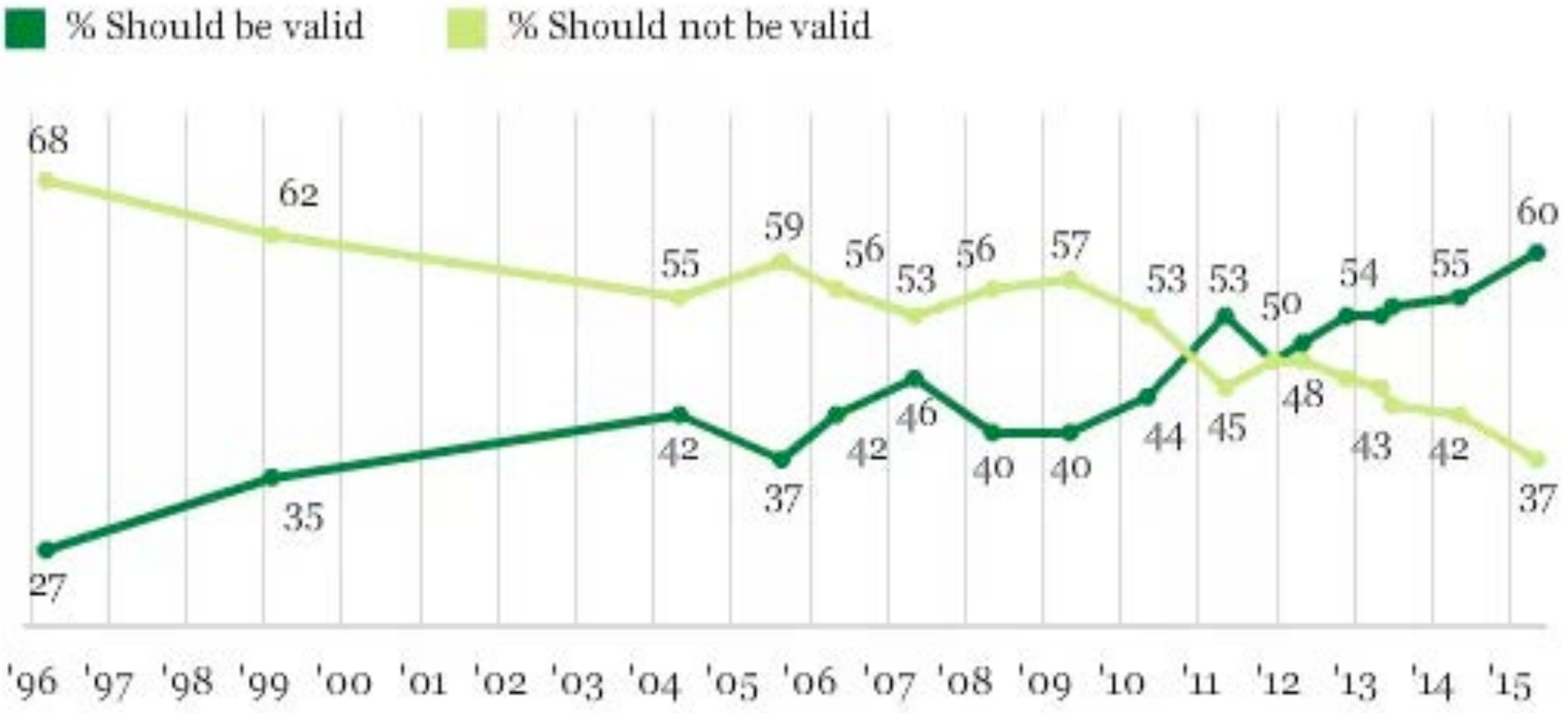
GALLUP

Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?



Note: Trend shown for polls in which same-sex marriage question followed questions on gay/lesbian rights and relations
1996-2005 wording: "Do you think marriages between homosexuals ..."

GALLUP

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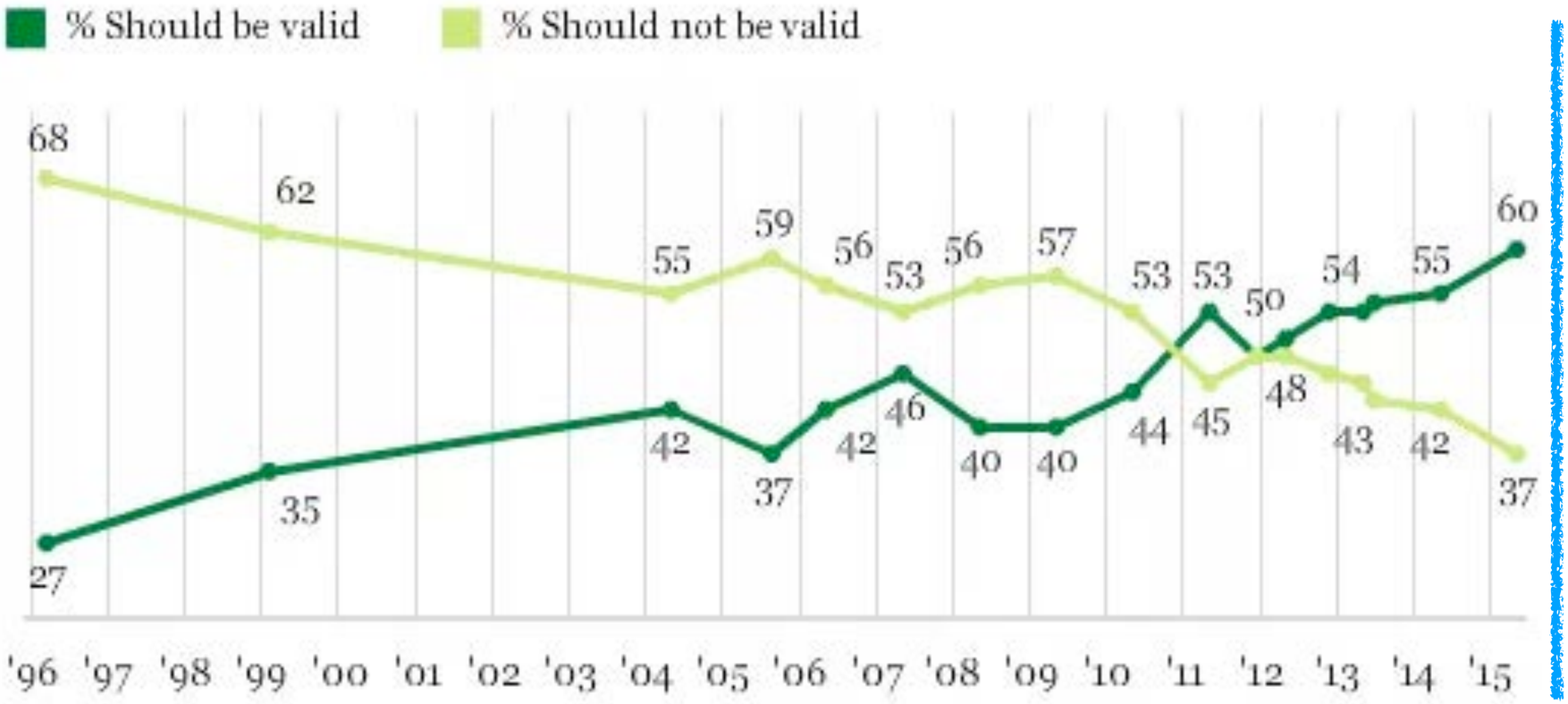

2015 - Obergefell v. Hodges

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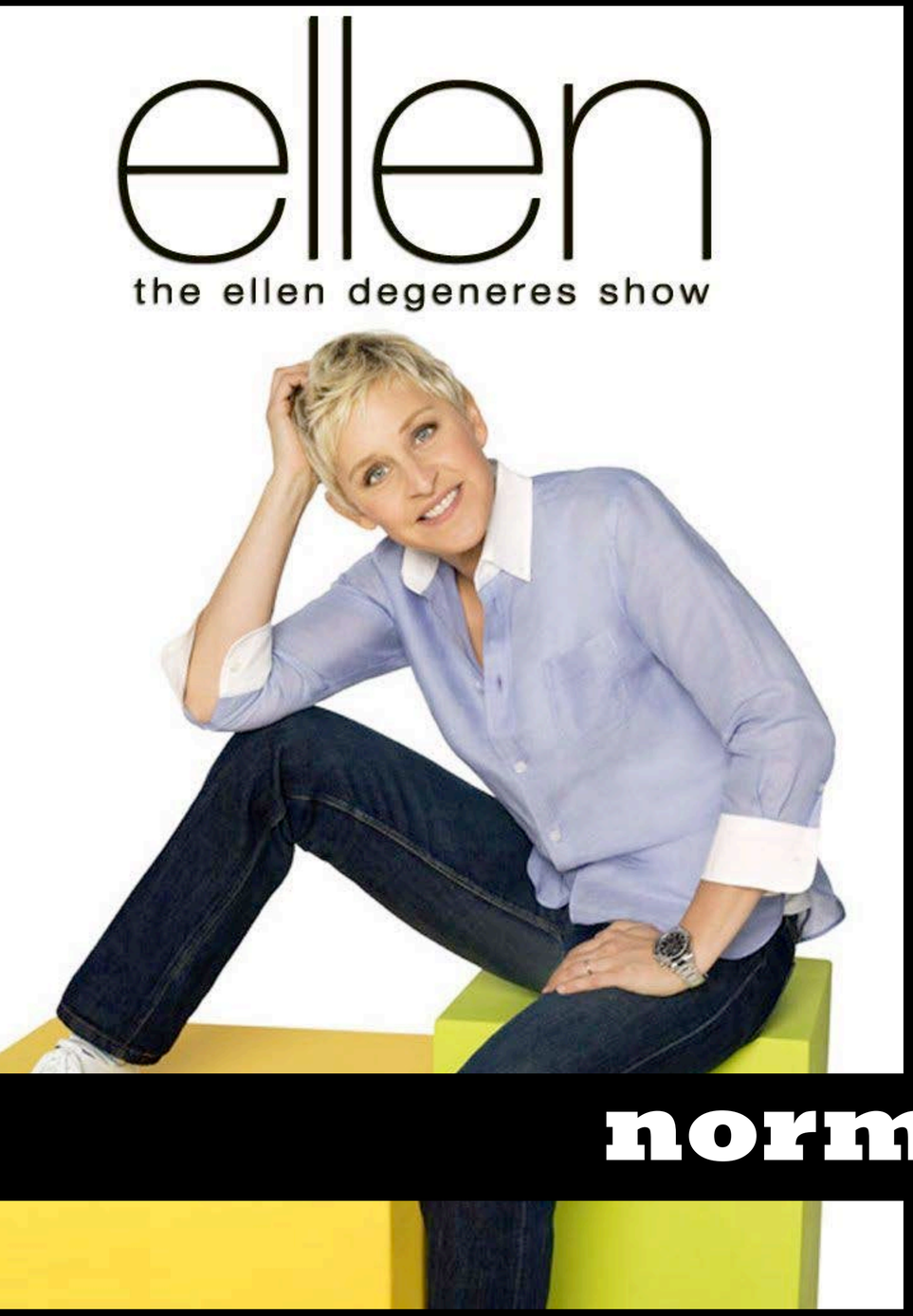

norms precede laws

norms

flickr photo by Sean Davis

Michael Brown

The Root
@TheRoot

Follow

If you died, which picture would the media use? #IfTheyGunnedMeDown #MikeBrown bit.ly/1sNlKhe

Reply Retweet Favorite More

RETWEETS 523 FAVORITES 182

9:55 AM - 11 Aug 2014 Flag media

Name Ring BELLS
@Heartbreak_Rell

Follow

#iftheygunnedmedown which picture would they use?

Reply Retweet Favorite More

RETWEETS 5,905 FAVORITES 3,819

5:38 PM - 10 Aug 2014 Flag media

#iftheygunnedmedown

The New York Times

U.S.

Shooting Spurs Hashtag Effort on Stereotypes

By TANZINA VEGA AUG. 12, 2014

Tyler Atkins posted these pictures on Twitter and suggested that the news media would select the one on the left to depict him if he were shot.

When Tyler Atkins heard about the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, 18, an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Mo., he posted on Twitter a picture of himself in a tuxedo, with a saxophone around his neck, next to a photograph of himself dressed in a black T-shirt with a blue bandanna tied around his head and his finger pointed at the camera.

Like hundreds of young African-Americans, he placed his pictures under the hashtag #IfTheyGunnedMeDown, protesting Mr. Brown's killing by a police officer and the way young black men are depicted in the news media. He said that Mr. Brown's identity was distorted and filtered through negative stereotypes, and that the same would have been done to him with the bandanna image if he found himself the victim of a similar event.

The first picture was taken after a jazz concert at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, where Mr. Atkins, a senior, studies music. The other was taken during a recording for a rap video he made with friends for a school math project.

Google michael brown

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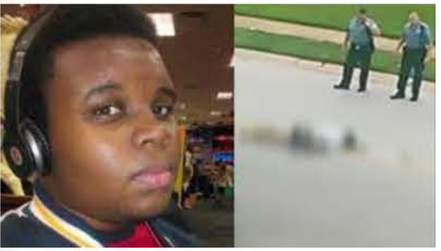
dead | 4 hour | street | ground | floor | road | 4chan | 9gag | facebook | twitter | the funeral | hands up | st louis blues | trayvon martin | eric garner | shooter | oscar grant | dillon taylor | tamir rice | co

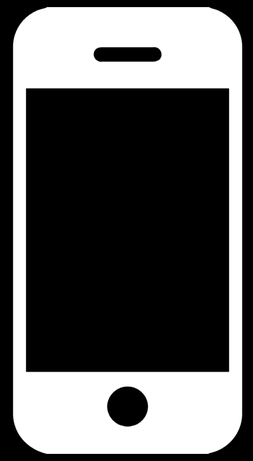


Adam Foss
Radical
Institutionalist

monithon.it
Counter-Democracy
Monitorial Citizenship

Presentation's name
Helvetica Bold 18/18pt

Name of presenter
Helvetica Regular 18/18pt



disruption
replace old institutions
with new ones

CIVIL

civil.co

distributed institutions

institutionalists

---

radical institutionalists

counter-democrats

distruptors

decentralizers

institutionalist or insurrectionist?

inside, outside, new or no institutions?

law, code, markets, norms?

choose what works for you.
what matters is efficacy.
people need to know
that they can change the world.

if trust isn't coming back
what does it mean for other institutions?

what does an insurrectionist customer look like?
an insurrectionist patient?

thank you

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