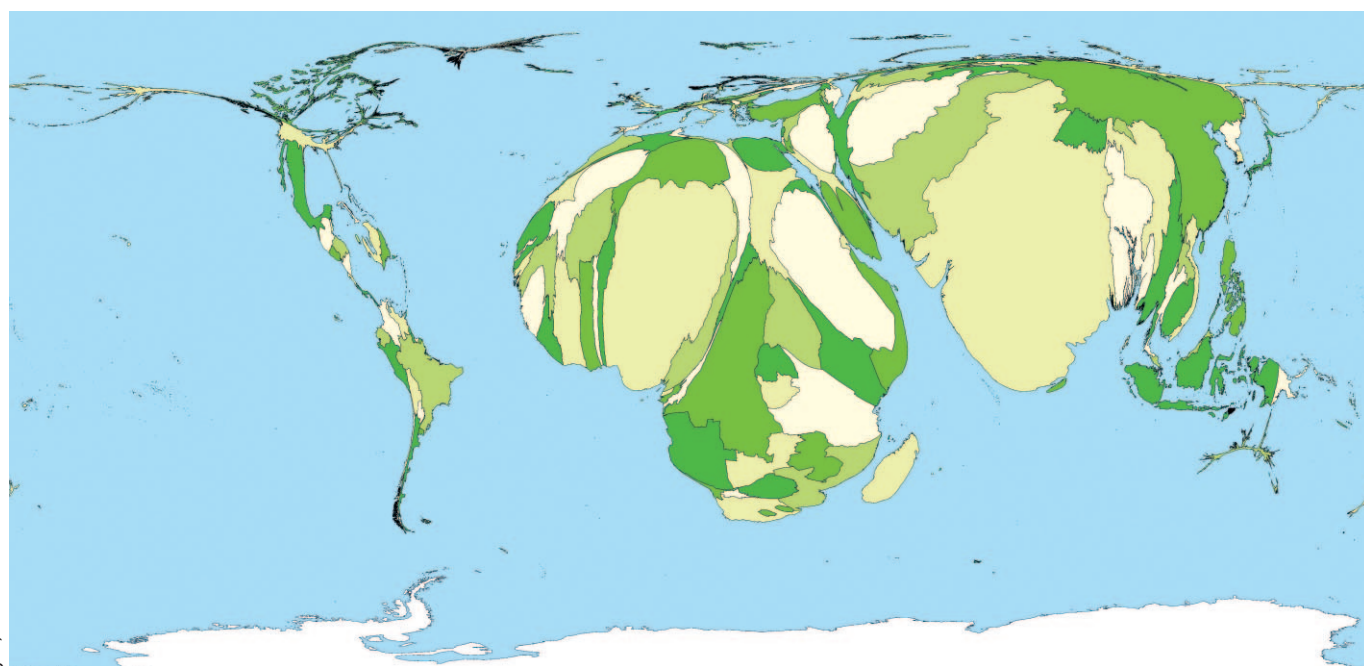


## DIFFERENT WAYS TO VIEW THE WORLD

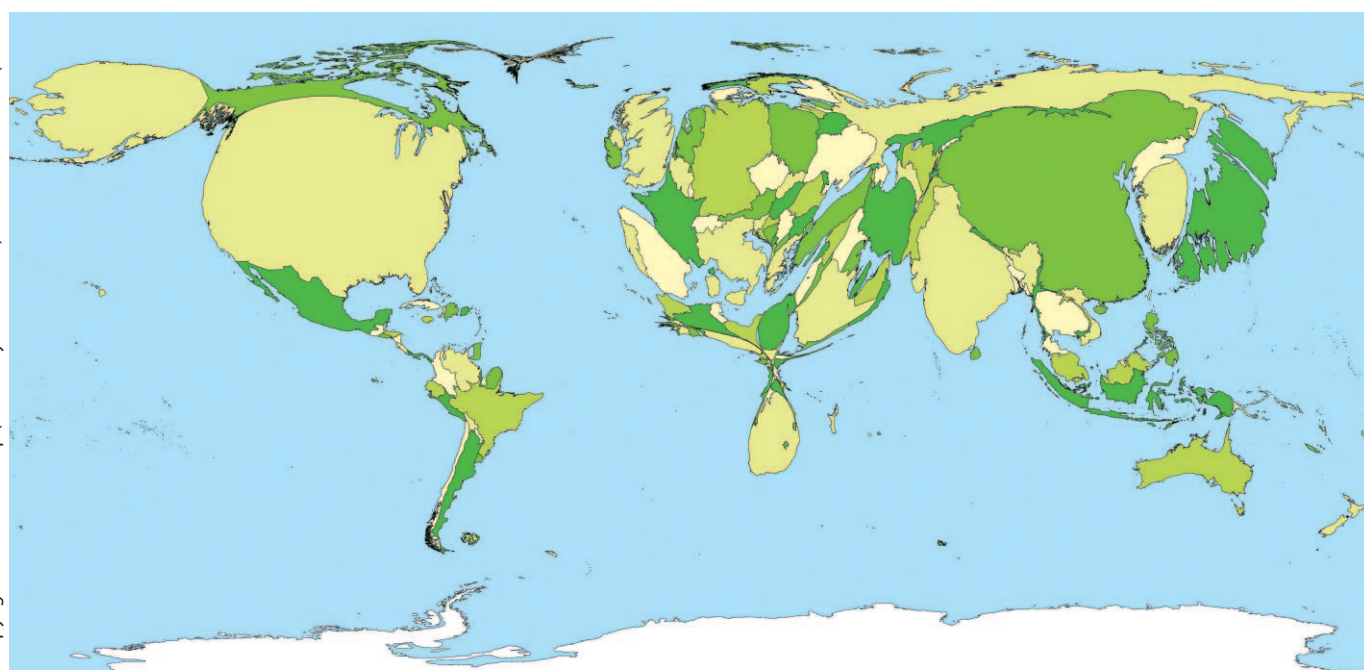
The traditional map of the world is a geographic marvel. But look at the world through the prism of population, child mortality, greenhouse gas emissions or even toy exports and countries morph into new shapes. Suddenly, the map reveals so much more.



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO POPULATION



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO CHILD MORTALITY



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

For more about the making of these maps, PLEASE SEE PERSON OF INTEREST, PAGE 2

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT REINHOLD NIEBUHR

## No one is all good or all evil

By Emily L. Hauser

President Bush has long painted the international community, and the nation's foreign policy, in stark terms. "Islamofascists" and, before them, the "axis of evil," described our many enemies in black and white.

Yet as Bush divides the world this way, more Americans are beginning to question his strict breakdown of good and evil. At

Emily L. Hauser is a freelance writer who lives in Oak Park.

such a time, the guidance of an eminent theologian who once helped shape our conversation about these very issues is especially relevant.

Reinhold Niebuhr, a Lutheran minister and theologian who taught social ethics at the Union Theological Seminary in New York from 1928 through 1960, was a pivotal figure for a generation of activist religious thinkers.

With a resolved insistence that good and evil exist within us all, Niebuhr shook up what many felt had become a stag-

nant liberal Protestant ethos.

His work was characterized by a resonant tension, a constant thread that insisted there was no one essential model of ethics that people of goodwill could apply to the world's many and varied complexities.

"The New Testament does not envisage a simple triumph of good over evil in history," he wrote. "It sees human history involved in the contradictions of sin to the end."

Raised in Lincoln, Ill., Nie-

PLEASE SEE NIEBUHR, PAGE 4



Tribune photo by George Thompson  
Elmhurst College has a statue of Reinhold Niebuhr.

## It's how, not where

Olympic Stadium plans could either ruin or fulfill Olmsted's Chicago park vision

By Blair Kamin

Frederick Law Olmsted was America's greatest landscape architect, a poet of dirt and rocks and trees who saw urban parks not just as spaces of soothing beauty but as public places that would hold together an industrializing nation divided along class lines.

Among his greatest works: New York City's Central Park and Chicago's Washington Park, which Mayor Richard Daley proposed last week as the site for a 95,000-seat stadium for the 2016 Olympics.

Not surprisingly, some open-space advocates recoiled at Daley's bold idea, which calls for dismantling the above-ground portions of the stadium after the Games while keeping a sunken, 10,000-seat amphitheater that could be used for track and field, as well as cultural events.

In essence, they compared it to painting a mustache on the Mona Lisa.

"Totally inappropriate," said Jerry Adelman, executive director of the Openlands Project, a Chicago non-profit organization.

"It seems to me this plan would destroy the legacy of Olmsted in that park," said

Blair Kamin is the Tribune's architecture critic.

Erma Tranter, Friends of the Parks president.

But some landscape architects, while expressing concern about marring a masterpiece by one of the 19th Century's greatest designers, were not quite ready to slam the door on Daley's idea.

In their view, the key issue is whether the amphitheater turns out to be a scar on the landscape or a poetic trace that would evoke the memory of the 2016 Olympics, much as the Museum of Science and Industry recalls the neo-classical grandeur of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in another Chicago park that Olmsted designed: Jackson Park.

The devil, as always, is in

PLEASE SEE PARKS, PAGE 11



## Looking beyond Obama-mania: Is he ready yet?

By David Mendell

Amid all the breathless national media coverage of U.S. Sen. Barack Obama's visit last weekend to a high-profile political fundraiser in Iowa, a key analysis was missing: What did Iowa's Democratic activists really think of him?

As the hosts of the first presidential caucus in the country, Iowans are a special breed of political consumer, more discerning and critical than the typical American voters. They are accustomed to presidential-ready candidates catering to their parochial interests and dazzling them with crisp oratory and folksy glad-handing.

In short, they are a very tough crowd.

Upon the Illinois senator's arrival, the event was typical Obama-mania: About 3,500 enthusiastic Democrats showering him with applause and pouncing on him for autographs and photographs. The fundraiser's sponsor, U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, introduced his keynote speaker as a "political rock star" blessed with a special gift for connecting with people, and during a quiet moment in Obama's speech, a man in back shrieked "Obama in '08!"

Clearly, the pomp and circumstance and high expectations surrounding the senator, whose first bill is scheduled to be signed into law on Tuesday, have not abated.

But when I drove away from the Warren County Fairgrounds in Indianola, I couldn't help but think that Obama's visit played so well in the national and Iowa media mostly because of his star status, not necessarily because of his performance.

Post-speech interviews with rank-and-file Democrats indicated that Obama perhaps could use a touch more seasoning before he returns to Iowa soil for something more significant than a fundraiser. But then again, Obama himself has been trying in vain to convince journalists of that point for some time.

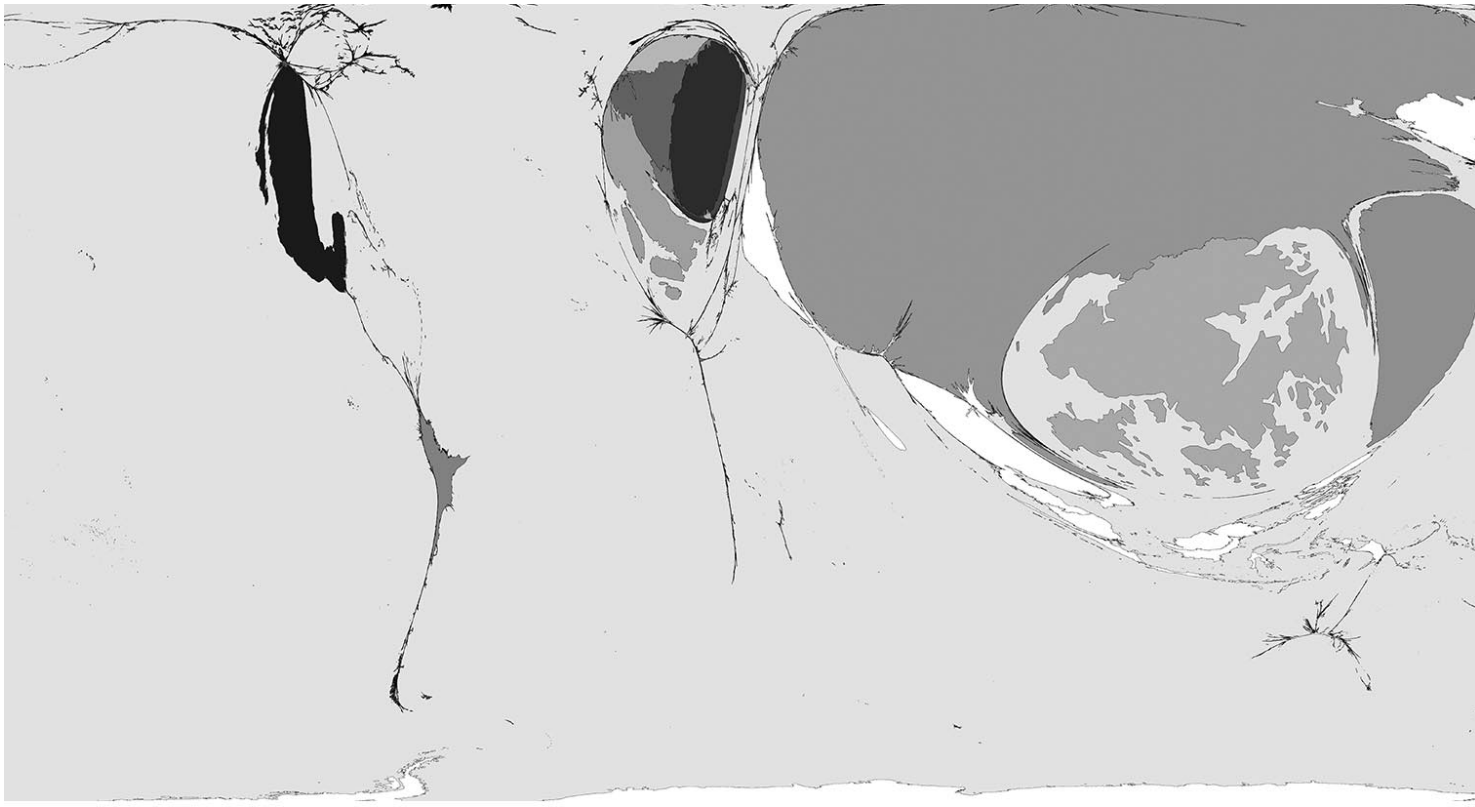
As the reporter who covered Obama's Senate race in 2004, I have closely followed his rapid ascent. And it's been rare to encounter a Democratic crowd that, after hearing Obama

David Mendell is a Tribune staff reporter who is researching a book on Obama.

PLEASE SEE OBAMA, PAGE 6



## PERSON OF INTEREST



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO TOY EXPORTS

# The scale of things

## Mark Newman creates maps that illustrate statistics, showing how data can change the shape of the world

By Steve Cavendish

Mark Newman sees the world a bit differently than the rest of us do.

Whereas you and I might see a map with borders, he sees algorithms and spatial representations.

A University of Michigan physicist turned self-professed "map geek," Newman and a group of geographers in England have been turning data on topics such as population or mortality into a type of map called a cartogram.

Their Worldmapper project, which can be found at worldmapper.org, takes information from the United Nations, the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources and puts them through a mathematical formula Newman developed a few years ago.

The result? Countries still have borders, but their area is now a visual representation of the data.

Though cartograms aren't new, Newman's algorithm has given geographers an easier way to do them. In a recent conversation with the Tribune, he elaborated on his interest and how they work.

**Q** Why are cartograms useful?

**A** Cartograms are a striking way to visualize statistics on a map. By making countries, states or regions bigger or smaller according to their population or wealth or any other quantity of interest, we can see at a glance how different regions compare.

All of the data we use in making our maps is freely available in the form of ta-



Physicist Mark Newman

bles on the Internet, but tables aren't easy to read. These maps, on the other hand, allow people to take in the same data in a single, easily understood figure.

**Q** You're a physicist. How did you get interested in mapping?

**A** I do research on networks, such as computer networks and social networks, and first became interested in making cartograms as a tool for studying the spatial distribution of the nodes in some of these networks.

Along with a colleague, Michael Gastner, I developed the computer technique used for making the maps. Only after we'd started making maps did we realize that this was something geographers were very interested in as well.

**Q** There's some complicated math behind these maps. Can you give me a layman's explanation for it?

**A** If we want to make a map in which the sizes of countries vary with, say, population, then we want to make countries larger—spread them out more—if they have larger populations.

We do this by making use of an analogy to the physical process of diffusion. (This is where the physics comes in.)

Imagine dumping a bottle of black ink into a swimming pool. Initially, the ink

would be concentrated in a small area—very black—while the rest of the water would be clear. As time goes by, however, the ink would spread out, and if we wait long enough it will end up uniformly distributed throughout the pool, with all the water being just slightly inky. This is the diffusion process.

In our work, we mimic the same process with population density. We let it spread out away from the places where it is highest—the cities and greater metropolitan areas—until it is uniform everywhere.

And as it spreads we allow it to "carry along" the features of the map, such as country borders and coastlines, so that the countries with big populations expand while those with small populations remain small.

**Q** Any surprises in the things you've mapped? What have you seen that you didn't expect?

**A** The most surprising results for me have been in the sheer scale of things. Most of us know, for example, that the United States emits more greenhouse gases than other countries. We know that Africa has higher child mortality than does Europe or the Americas. We may even have seen the figures for these things in the newspapers or on TV.

But for me these maps bring home the true scale of things in a way that numbers on a page never really do.

scavendish@tribune.com  
Steve Cavendish is the Tribune's graphics editor.

## While the cat's away...



As the Thai prime minister learned last week, when foreign leaders go overseas, they sometimes get overthrown. A few examples:

LEADER	SUCCESSOR	WHY LEADER WAS AWAY	DETAIL
1 Thailand's <b>Thaksin Shinawatra</b> Sept. 19, 2006	Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin	To attend United Nations session in New York	Thaksin canceled his planned UN speech and stated the obvious: "I didn't expect this incident would happen."
2 Mauritania's <b>Maaouya Sid'Ahmed Taya</b> Aug. 3, 2005	Military junta	In Saudi Arabia for the funeral of King Fahd	There has "never been as crazy and dramatic a coup in Africa," Taya declared, somewhat improbably, according to Agence France-Presse.
3 Afghan King <b>Mohammad Zahir Shah</b> July 17, 1973	Mohammad Daoud, the king's cousin	Vacationing on the island of Ischia in the Tyrrhenian Sea off Naples, Italy	While his 40-year reign was ending, the king was undergoing "mineral water digestive treatments" and mud baths.
4 Ugandan President <b>Milton Obote</b> Jan. 25, 1971	Maj. Gen. Idi Amin	Attending a Commonwealth conference in Singapore	On radio, Amin's spokesmen told other countries to "keep noses out of Uganda's internal affairs."
5 Cambodian Prince <b>Norodom Sihanouk</b> March 18, 1970	Gen. Lon Nol, backed by U.S.	Visiting Soviet leaders in Moscow	The news was broken to him by Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin.
6 Libyan King <b>Idris I</b> Sept. 1, 1969	Moammar Gadhafi	In Turkey for medical treatment and a vacation	Idris was traveling with 32 attendants, five cars and 235 pieces of luggage.
7 Ghanaian President <b>Kwame Nkrumah</b> Feb. 24, 1966	Military junta	Traveling to China	After arriving in Beijing and learning of the coup, Nkrumah attended the dinner in his honor anyway, but reportedly arrived 75 minutes late looking "tense and grim."

Here's the flip side — someone who pulled off a coup while he was out of his own country: On Oct. 12, 1999, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif fired army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf while the military leader was on a visit to Sri Lanka. While Musharraf was flying back to Pakistan, his supporters overthrew Sharif and took power for him.

—Compiled by Mark Jacob from Tribune staff and news services

## FINE POINT

A look at the week in Washington

# The justice who changed a way of life

By Michael Tackett

WASHINGTON—It's still quite easy to remember the billboards that dotted the South in the 1960s with the common message: Impeach Earl Warren.

The chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court was a pariah to a lot of Southern whites because the court he led so fundamentally changed their way of life.

More than three decades after Warren's death, the high court prepares to open its new term on the first Monday of October, and it could well represent the start of a conservative alternative to the years Warren occupied the court's center seat.

Warren was the kind of "activist judge" that Republicans have so effectively demonized, at least since the Reagan era. From the moment he joined the court and fashioned a unanimous decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the first of many historic civil rights rulings, Warren and his court often took steps that neither Congress nor the White House would.

In this era, think of Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. as Warren's polar opposite. Deft, genial and brilliant, the youthful Roberts could have an impact on the law as profound in one direction as Warren's was in the other.

In his deeply researched new biography, "Justice for All: Earl Warren and the Nation He Made," author Jim Newton, a reporter for the Los Angeles Times, provides insight and a timely reminder into the character of the most consequential justice of the last half-century.

Warren was a durable Republican from California who was supported in the decidedly conservative editorial pages of the Los Angeles Times in his many successful election campaigns, most notably his three terms as governor.

He was so popular he once won both the Republican and Democratic primary in the state, and his political potential was seen as limitless. He clearly eyed the White House and somewhat grudgingly agreed to be Thomas Dewey's running mate in the 1948 presidential election.

By 1952, many saw him as a front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination. And he might well have won if not for the somewhat surprise entry of Dwight Eisenhower in the race during a time of war with North Korea.

Eisenhower, Newton writes, had a consolation prize in mind for Warren, namely to be solicitor general with an assurance that he would be considered for the first opening on the Supreme Court. The day Eisenhower was to make that appointment official, Chief Justice Fred Vinson died.

That single act changed history's course.

Warren joined a court with justices who took a decidedly dim view of civil rights legislation and any expansive reading of the Constitution that would limit states' rights. But Warren, Newton notes, used his abundant political skills to win a unanimous decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*.

Eisenhower would later express regret about appointing Warren, but no one was more disappointed than then-Vice President Richard Nixon, whose rocky relationship with the chief justice dated back many years to their days in California.

Few were happier than Warren the day Nixon lost the White House to John F. Kennedy in 1960. With a Democrat in the White House, and the civil rights movement gaining momentum, Warren's court forged majorities that changed almost every important aspect of life for America's blacks. Those decisions upended American politics as well, pushing the South solidly to the Republicans, and ironically leading to Nixon's eventual election as president in 1968.

As Newton persuasively writes, it was Warren's political skills, more than his legal scholarship, that made him effective. Those skills underscored the notion that it is not necessarily a bad thing to have a politician on the court, someone who has made decisions that affect people's lives and stood before them on Election Day to have those decisions validated.

Given the polarized climate of today, Earl Warren would have no chance of being nominated for the high court. His party's nominees don't mention him by name, but they speak of "activist judges" with contempt and promise to avoid them.

But activism is a coin with two sides. Conservatives can be just as activist in scaling back the law as Warren was in expanding it.

John Roberts seems to share Warren's people skills and his ability to win over his colleagues. But unlike Warren, Roberts will not surprise or disappoint Bush and conservatives. There will be no billboards about him in the South.

Michael Tackett is the Tribune's Washington Bureau chief.

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## HOW TO CONTACT US

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