

An introduction to making Technological Madness freely available as an online PDF at <http://www.ilankelman.org/menard/Aronson1983.pdf> courtesy of the author Ronald Aronson and the publisher Menard Press.

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All these years later, the most important fact is our partial victory. A pity of course that it was only partial. Since those days, India, Pakistan, and North Korea have gone ahead, flouting international opinion, and they might go over the brink at any time. Of course the great powers are to be congratulated for negotiating an agreement with Iran. But governments in the United States, France, Britain, Russia, and Israel, all committed nuclear powers, are guilty of gross hypocrisy by themselves perpetuating the very threat that they condemn in others. Even if the Cold War is over, do we not still live amidst the nuclear madness I wrote about in those days?

With “social madness”. I was not speaking rhetorically and for effect, but trying to develop a usable critical tool for assessing the tendency of movements and governments to systematically ignore reality. Extreme irrationality is one kind of rupture, as is total disregard of consequences, as is extreme denial. In the years since the 1980s, we have all been living in a condition of borderline insanity by refusing to face the environmental consequences of unrestrained economic growth. Today we know: consumer society, by its very nature, can no longer be sustained. The capitalist economy as we know it must be transformed. It is social madness to think and act otherwise.