

# Dematerialism Part 2

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# The Trip to Dematerialism

## The Defects of Capitalism: My List

The original of this list – handwritten quickly on foolscap perhaps in less than fifteen minutes back in 1987 – was the birth of this theory. The list hasn't changed much over the years. Originally the list was conceived as a list of the drawbacks of capitalism. My contribution has been to recognize that capitalism is merely an example of a more fundamental evil, namely, artificial economic contingency or materialism, depending on how you want to think of it. I have generalized this aspect of the theory of Marx. I believe I have discovered precisely the boundary between a happy society and a miserable society. I have found necessary and sufficient conditions for sustainable happiness – in the technical sense, of course. (I use the Deci and Ryan definition of happiness.)

1) Materialism (M) causes endless cycles of boom and bust against which no one can make dependable plans. M is the cause of the wasted talent of people who begin studying a discipline when its practitioners are in short supply and who find the market glutted when they graduate. Like Items 20, 21, and 33 in the list from *The Communist Manifesto* (TCM). (This is a pre-dematerialism issue.)

2) People work too hard and neglect family and aspects of life other than their careers. The world has become a work camp. Many forms of work impact on the environment undesirably. Business isn't even good for businessmen. Witness the incidence of cancer, heart disease, ulcers, and divorce among them.

3) Many people live under unreasonable expectations. Anyone can become rich, but not everyone can become rich at the same time..

4) Too much work is wasted dividing up the pie, i.e., trying to get a bigger share for oneself or one's employer. The work of many other people is wasted as well, namely, the people who carry such people to work, fly them from place to place, build and maintain their communication systems, write their decision-making software, educate them, serve them their lunches, make their hotel beds, etc., etc.

5) The waste of many talented people whose lives are consumed in schemes for avoiding taxes, cutting a slicker deal, getting around the law, etc. is caused by M.

6) Commerce is destroying the best in our culture, for example, through TV, most of which is designed to serve commerce. An essay on how TV is destroying our values and has diminished the ability of children to learn is nearly superfluous.

7) In the rush to accumulate wealth, which our system has changed from a choice to a necessity, people must neglect many important aspects of our culture. Allan Bloom states that no university in America is capable of imparting an acceptable liberal education. In fact, there is no one left to teach it.

8) Materialism influences people's behavior, what they study, read, what they do for a living, how they treat other people, their choices of spouses, and other things

that should be influenced only by the heart and one's natural inclinations. People try to buy love.

9) Not all forms of endeavor result in the same gain in material wealth. There are dramatic inequities. Investment bankers earn much more than mathematicians, which is ridiculous. This is more convincing than Item 24 of TCM.

10) Materialism causes crime. Middle-class and rich people cannot go into certain parts of the city. Even the downtown business districts are unsafe at night and on weekends. Does that sound like a social system that is working! Religion, as we know it, won't help.

11) Materialism causes poverty. People are forced to accept charity. Poverty impacts negatively even on the wealthy who must breathe fumes from poorly maintained cars, turn their homes into fortresses, etc. Eventually, if the poor become sufficiently dissatisfied, they may riot, this time destroying the homes and property of the rich, or they may achieve a revolution during which many of the wealthy may be killed and after which some may be brought to trial. This subsumes TCM Item 35.

12) Gradients in wealth subvert democracy as some can buy influence in the legislatures and the courts. It is possible that the president of the U.S. could be influenced by the wealthy. Actually I think it's much worse than that.

13) People cheat to get ahead. Farmers and processors of food tamper with the food supply and treat animals inhumanely to increase their profits. Industrialists pollute. The corporate ladder is an institution that disgusts nearly everyone who knows anything about it. It is the subject of obscene jokes.

14) Lesser men (and women) gain ascendancy over greater. The unenlightened rule the enlightened. This covers TCM Item 40. [It is cleverly and humorously illustrated by Scott Adams in his comic strip Dilbert.]

15) Materialism teaches people to follow their base animal instincts. People survive not by intelligence but by low animal cunning.

16) Materialism leads to conflict with other political and economic systems. It must end in war or revolution because it creates natural enemies. This is like TCM Item 41.

17) Nearly everyone worries about money. The majority of marital disputes are about money.

18) People who are rich are accorded status and prestige they do not deserve. They harbor illusions about themselves. Money is really as bad for the rich as it is for the poor. The unhappy rich kid is a proverb.

19) It is difficult to relieve incompetent people of responsibility as their families, who may be innocent, will suffer. People are even kicked upstairs.

20) The distribution of wealth is never fair. No reasonable system is in place. It is impossible to devise an absolutely fair system other than equal division with an adjustment for special needs.

21) Ultimately we will have to abandon our quasi-laissez-faire approach to regulating the economy. One of the drawbacks of M is that we will not have acquired any experience in genuine economic planning. (Also a pre-dematerialism issue.)

22) People are forced to move about from place to place because of job changes, to get work, because rents are allowed to rise, because neighborhoods are destroyed. Frequent relocations have many undesirable effects.

23) Consumerism flourishes. Because of the need for markets, people are encouraged to purchase useless or marginally useful gismos that complicate their lives; stockpiles of available energy and material are depleted; the junk heap grows.

24) Nations seeking new markets adopt imperialistic foreign policies that lead to terrorism and war. Actually, foreign trade has become war.

25) Capitalism requires economic growth, which impacts undesirably on the environment and the quality of life. This is like the important Item 9 in TCM.

26) Materialism leads to problems with taking care of the elderly and people who cannot cope, problems with the apportionment of costly medical procedures.

[Note in proof (1-2-98). Recently, Prof. Lester Thurow commented that, when it comes to health care, everyone is a communist. No parent wants to hear that his child will receive inferior medical care because he is insufficiently rich.]

27) People inducing other people to make purchases should worry that their subjects cannot afford to pay for the purchases.

28) Entrepreneurs are forced to take serious risks that sometimes imperil their families. Gambling is supposed to be a vice. Why should gambling on business ventures be encouraged or even tolerated?

29) Materialism leads to a complicated system of laws both civil and criminal and endless legislation and litigation. Ignorance of the law is not only an excuse, it is the unavoidable condition of every single person.

30) Materialism compromises the trustworthiness of nuclear power plants, which, when operating normally, produce no pollution, provided we can solve the problem of disposing of nuclear waste. (The problem of nuclear waste does not arise in fusion plants, but not all of the technical problems associated with such plants have been solved.) Unfortunately, even people who support capitalism do not trust the operators of nuclear power plants under the profit motive. Nuclear power will not be safe until the only motivations for producing it, above and beyond public service, are scientific and technological prestige, which, of course, would be severely compromised by accidents. [Note (2-5-92). Nuclear power is probably hopeless anyway.]

31) Materialism leads to socialized industry, which, in turn, leads to managers who are not practitioners. This leads to uninformed decisions and inferior product quality.

32) It is difficult to get rid of useless or harmful jobs because jobs are equivalent to livelihoods. We find it difficult to close an army base that is no longer needed. We would like to provide free medical care for everyone, but that would displace workers in the health-insurance sector. The concept of The Job leads to many absurd contradictions.

33) Artists, scientists, and scholars must have freedom to create. We all suffer when their sponsors exercise control over what they do. Truth suffers. And yet, under any materialistic system, capitalism or socialism (in America we have both), artists, scientists, and scholars must live by handouts from someone. We have no guarantee that that someone will not abuse his influence, in fact, unless we are very naive, we expect him (or her) to abuse that sort of relationship. The current crisis at the National Endowment for the Arts represents precisely the type of tampering that we find unacceptable.

Science is one of the most important activities of man, actually one the most successful as well. It is transcendent in that, like art, the ordinary activities of man are justified by it. We don't paint pictures so that we can grow corn; we grow corn so that we can paint pictures. The same is true of true science [1]. Thus, any political or social system that is harmful to science (or art) cannot be accepted as a permanent solution to mankind's needs. Both socialism and capitalism and systems like the American system that are a mixture of both are harmful to science. In fact, any materialistic system whatever is harmful to science. Socialism, because bureaucrats have power over what science is done; capitalism, because the rich and powerful do. No one should have that power save the scientist himself. Thus, M is rejected. [Please don't claim that we have made remarkable strides in art and science since materialism became the world religion. That is easily refuted.]

34) Materialism makes possible the bidding up of junk to the status of art.

35) We don't believe that accidents of birth such as race or gender justify greater material wealth. Why should we accept accidents of birth like higher intelligence or even good character as justification for greater material wealth. On the contrary, intelligent people of good character should renounce wealth.

Thus, we see that I was attracted to the moral basis of dematerialism; and, in the beginning, I did not realize that dematerialism might be sustainable whereas other political systems were not.

Dematerialism satisfies moral requirements and *is*  
sustainable

Thus, dematerialism satisfies moral imperatives that we might adopt because of an inspired reading of the Sermon on the Mount, a clear appraisal of the needs of the community, and an understanding of what convenience amounts to for an entire community. I, for my part, test every public policy against the three criteria discussed in *Toward Axiomatic Morality in On the Preservation of Species*, namely, reasonableness, utility, and beauty. Nevertheless, every political economy upon which we hope to build a lasting civilization must a fortiori be sustainable.

# Sustainability

ERoEI\*, Energy Returned over Energy Invested, is the Measure of Sustainability.

## *Sine Qua Non*

Inasmuch as we are at the limit to growth or near it, we are now forced to adjust our lives merely to survive. Here is a rough list of the minimum that we must do.

Solve population problem. Population de-growth is most important.

Economic de-growth is necessary too as follows:

Put an end to predatory imperialism and render assistance to those nations that need economic growth and to which a modicum of our shrinkage should go to compensate them for our misdeeds until a new equilibrium is established, after which the entire world should strive for nearly equal sustainable economic performance globally.

Close stock markets, which will have become zero-sum games at best.

Ban fractional reserve banking.

Government must cease telling lies, which means no more propaganda especially in schools. Instead explain to students why major changes are absolutely necessary.

Solve inequality crisis. Replace fiat currency with resource credits distributing equal shares of the sustainable community net harvest or production with proviso about replacing oneself only, transferring that privilege, or not reproducing.

Devise reasonable way to discourage cheating.

Establish true democracy such that all the power is held by all of the people.

Prevent the rise of demagogues and natural leaders. Sortition and fractal government are suggested.

Since reaching the limit to growth means that economy behaves like game of Monopoly, one person might own everything. G. B. Shaw explains why anything approaching this is undesirable. So eliminate private profit by mutual coercion mutually agreed upon. Make it easy for addicts of acquisition to quit by removing mechanisms by which they could indulge themselves.

Solve energy problem. Establish steady state stockpiles of vital resources and regulate draw down of residuals from which the stockpiles are maintained as described in article on sustainability.

Solve resource scarcity problem. End consumerism. In particular, end automobile culture, advertising and marketing.

Prevent pollution. Prevent waste, including waste of talent and beauty. Prevent wage slavery.

Establish true renewable energy technology.

Devise methods to achieve the aforementioned.

## Sustainability Checklist

Sustainability amounts to providing a sustainable renewable energy technology, a technology that harvests energy (corrected for entropy) from the sun in real time and that returns more energy than is consumed to manufacture it, install it, operate it, maintain it, maintain its storehouses of natural material capital, prevent or repair environmental damage including aesthetic damage, uninstall it when its life cycle ends, restore the plant site, and support the community that serves the renewable energy installation both directly and indirectly throughout its life cycle. If the technology must pay the energy cost of a substitute technology in cases where a substitute technology is necessary to satisfy contractual obligations, this cost must be added to the energy invested. I reserve the right and privilege to add to this list if appropriate or necessary.

The entire section on sustainability, formerly located here, can be found at [dematerialism.net/Sustainability.htm](https://www.dematerialism.net/Sustainability.htm).

<https://www.dematerialism.net/Sustainability.htm>

## Axiomatic Morals

There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so. – Shakespeare's Hamlet

Nietzsche came to this sentiment rather late in the day and Mary Baker Eddy gave it second place on her Frontispiece in Science and Health; but, the authorities are not needed, as one can verify the truth of it with a little reflection.

Pronouncements, then, of moral judgments are termed “normative”. Laws, then, are made for the convenience of the community and to discourage nuisances. In my philosophy, I ask that they be few in number, readily derivable from a minimal set, and satisfy the three criteria: reasonableness, utility, and beauty as discussed ad infinitum in Chapter 3 of On the Preservation of Species.

The not-quite-independent set of minimal principles to which I subscribe can be rendered in slang as follows: (1) live and let live, (2) tell the truth to those who have a right to know it (Hemingway, Green Hills of Africa), and (3) protect the environment. These and their corollaries deserve a great deal of elucidation and they get it in Chapter 3 (above) and throughout my papers and book. For example, I have tried very hard to show that precept number one demands economic equality. Finally, I believe we should avail ourselves of well-defined physical quantities as much as possible in stating the requirements of the law. In cases, where no judgment can be made based on first principles, we should defer to equality, e. g., the division of residential property or shares in the sustainable social dividend (the net production of useful goods and services by the community).

## Money

To walk in money through the night crowd, protected by money, lulled by money, dulled by money, the crowd itself a money, the breath money, no least single object anywhere that is not money, money, money everywhere and still not enough, and then no money, or a little money or less money or more money, but money, always money, and if you have money or you don't have money it is the money that counts and money makes money, but what makes money make money? - Henry Miller, Tropic of Capricorn

Our society is concerned with (I) money earned, (ii) other income, (iii) the cost of living, (iv) discretionary spending, (v) debt, (vi) net worth. This obscures the most important aspects of money. To elevate the ratio of energy returned over energy invested into renewable energy range, it is necessary to eliminate private profit as well as other chrematistical components of the energy invested denominator. This goes a long way toward reducing the total energy budget to less or equal to the production of renewable energy. In keeping with our preference for natural law, we agree that there is no reasonable way to assign spendable income to the citizens of our community without a job market. Many of the workers who have to be furloughed are among the highest paid people in the economy. If we agree to pay them no more than we pay others who agree not to engage in dechrematistic or even economic activities, it should reduce the number of people who object to economic equality to as few as possible. But, it is not the money earned that is important. It is the money spent. We must reduce consumption.

[We Need a New Monetary System: The complete essay as far as I got](#)

## Additional Web Space

### **Blogger**

<https://eroei.blogspot.com/> This is where I say the most important things about sustainability – against all odds and in the face of strong opposition. Sometimes my frustration shows.

<https://dematerialism.blogspot.com/> This is where I write down anything new that occurs to me. That includes new ways to explain the parts that few people understand.

<https://sustainabilitymath.blogspot.com/> This has a few documents that are found elsewhere. It was my protest regarding the people who grabbed [sustainability.blogspot.com](https://sustainability.blogspot.com/) and don't understand sustainability.



## **Slimwiki**

<https://www.slimwiki.com/wayburn/dematerialism> This replaces [dematerialism.wikispaces.com](https://dematerialism.wikispaces.com), which was a practice shot to get into the Wikipedia. I now have a better idea of what to say. After all, dematerialism is a limiting case. It is on the boundary of the space of all possible political and economic systems. It should be in the Wikipedia and these are some its principal characteristics.

## **Justpassinthru.com**

<https://www.justpassinthru.com/users/home/twayburn/> is supposed to mirror [dematerialism.net](https://dematerialism.net) but I find it hard to keep it up-to-date. I have started working on this problem.

## **Academia.edu**

<https://independent.academia.edu/TomWayburn> Duplicates of many of the principal papers the writing of which convinced me that so-called renewable energy technologies cannot support an American-style market economy; but, can support Earth as a Garden for a much smaller steady-state or shrinking population:

[On the Conservation-within-Capitalism Scenario \[Preliminary Version 1.2\]](#)

[Energy Returned over Energy Invested](#)

[A Note on Decimal Time](#)

[ERoEI\\* as a Measure of Feasibility](#)

[On Emergy](#)

[David Delaney's paper "The Economic Growth Trap"](#)

[The Demise of Business as Usual](#)

[On the Preservation of Species: A Logical Argument in Support of a Rational Basis for Community including Necessary and Sufficient Conditions for Sustainable Happiness for All Sentient Beings in a Hypothetical World 1989 -present](#)

[We Need a New Monetary System: The complete essay as far as I got](#)

[Energy in a Natural Economy](#)

## **Researchgate**

[https://www.researchgate.net/post/Does\\_anyone\\_still\\_believe\\_that\\_markets\\_distribute\\_the\\_social\\_dividend\\_efficiently](https://www.researchgate.net/post/Does_anyone_still_believe_that_markets_distribute_the_social_dividend_efficiently)

[Other material sent to Researchgate that I should keep my eye on.](#)

## **The Solutions Journal**

The website <http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/yoursolutions> of Solutions for a Sustainable and Desirable Future has kindly posted the contents of my wiki. It is a

very good fit in my opinion, as most of the contributors understand that we have reached a limit to growth that practically guarantees a die-off somewhere in the world in the wake of Peak Oil. Americans are slow to recognize Overshoot because our government has made it its business to export the die-off to foreign shores. Many of us have been forced to reduce their expenditures because of unemployment, but very few are missing meals. At least, if they are, I am not aware of it. On the other hand, starvation is all too common in states where we have used our military strength to trade ruinous loans for precious natural resources, particularly in Africa, which seems to suffer no matter what else is going on.

## Essays prior to 2006

### My Book

[On the Preservation of Species](#) (full 600-page book in one file)

[On the Preservation of Species](#) (table of contents hyperlinked to individual chapter files)

[Social Problems and Solutions](#) (many important ideas from the book – 56 pages)

[Useful Concepts from On the Preservation of Species](#)

### Essays on Energy

Except for “Thermodynamics, Availability, and Emergy” the essays in this first group of ancillary essays are new. Some remarks on the essay, “On the Conservation-within-Capitalism Scenario”, can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/7s6aq>. The results from “On the Conservation-within-Capitalism Scenario” are summarized in “The Demise of Business as Usual”, which is only ten pages long. The expedient of multiplying cash flow by the E/GDP ratio is justified numerically in “Energy in a Mark II Economy” where the well known ratio of energy returned over energy invested (EROEI) is explained and expanded.

The principal result of the work represented by the first four essays is that, if an American-style market economy is retained, no amount of nuclear power is sufficient; whereas, if we make the shift to a Natural Economy, the economy can be supported completely by safe, sustainable renewable energy. In this Soft-Energy, Earth-as-a-Garden scenario, nuclear energy and fossil fuel can be phased out. If you don't believe me, check my arithmetic and the spreadsheets attached to the next three papers.

[Emergy](#) (from Chapter 2 of [On the Preservation of Species](#))

[On Emergy](#) (from “Energy in a Mark II Economy”)

[Availability Balance on Earth Redux](#)

[Emergy and Population in a Natural Economy](#)

[Thermodynamics, Availability, and Emergy](#)

[On the Conservation-within-Capitalism Scenario](#)

[The Demise of Business as Usual](#)

[Energy in a Mark II Economy](#)

[EROI\\* as a Measure of Feasibility](#)

[EROEI as a Measure of Feasibility](#)

[Energy in a Natural Economy \(8by9w\)](#)

In “Energy in a Natural Economy”, I determined from US government employment and energy statistics roughly how much energy could be saved by abandoning market economics. This was developed further in the section on the Natural Economy in “On the Conservation-within-Capitalism Scenario”.

[A Report on My Recent Investigations of Solar Energy Harvested by Photosynthesis in a Controlled Environment](#)

[Photovoltaic for Australia](#)

[The Feasibility of a 600 Kilowatt Windpower Installation](#)

Danish engineers computed an energy payoff of only three months for a twenty-year wind power installation. (The URL for this study has been changed. Please search <http://www.windpower.org/>.) That seemed unlikely on the face of it. Undoubtedly, they neglected the high-energy lifestyles of the contractors who would receive the cash payments. My inexact method results in a minimum payoff period of 36 months – 12 months if we credit electricity with three times as much energy as fossil fuel. [Note (8-25-04). I believe the reader understands that the units of GDP are US dollars/year and the rate of energy consumption is in watt-years/year, so the years cancel out to give watt-years/USD.]

[Letter to John Kaminsky concerning Peak Abiotic Oil](#)

## **Essays on Psychology**

The next sequence of papers represents my various attempts to answer the pedestrian argument that dematerialism is contrary to human nature. Regrettably, many disciples of Dawkins, Pinker, and other proponents of evolutionary psychology have used the overthrow of the standard social science model as an opportunity to ingratiate themselves with the owners of the world by writing anti-communist and anti-anarchist propaganda, although a handful have recognized that, if it were true (that dematerialism is contrary to human nature), human society would be doomed to the massive culling known as Dieoff – principally because of the fine work done by Jay Hansen at <http://www.dieoff.com/>.

[Psychology as a Tool of Political Repression](#)

“Psychology as a Tool of Social Repression” is commentary on the rise of anti-communist propaganda and the horrible effect it has had on every effort to build a just society and to prevent a catastrophic end to this one.

[On the Perfectibility of Man](#)

[On Materialism](#)

This is a collection of some entries from my free blog at <http://dematerialism.blogspot.com/>. The next paper was my first clumsy attempt to refute an argument that is intuitively false. It is not so easy to refute logically what you believe to be true intuitively. People who discuss the methodology of science do not credit intuition sufficiently in my opinion.

[On Human Nature](#)

[To sleep— perchance to dream](#)

## **Essays on Dematerialism**

In some cases, these essays are too conservative and should be revised to reflect my latest thinking on government, foreign war, punishment, and other forms of direct action. In any case, I wrote what I wrote.

[Communism and Some Idle Thoughts on the Excesses of Capitalism](#)

[A Short Talk on Dematerialism](#)

[Computing Crude Birth Rates from Total Fertility Rate](#)

[On Designing a Community Currency](#)

[Talk to be given at Schreiner College on Washington 's Birthday](#)

[On "Entrepreneurship and Social Progress" by Lew Rockwell](#)

[On My Philosophy](#)

[On Capitalism](#)

[What We Want and What We Get](#)

[On the Work Ethic](#)

[On Free Enterprise](#)

[Is There a Conflict between Property Rights and the Moral Requirement to Protect Endangered Species?](#)

[On Socialism, Utopian and Scientific by Frederick Engels](#)

[Some Remarks on Oil](#)

[On William Buckley's 'Agenda for the Nineties'](#)

This essay is a line-by-line criticism of William Buckley's plan to make the United States a theocratic plutocracy in the conservative tradition of reaction to all social progress. It may have worked.

[American Myths and Higher Education](#)

[On Honor in Science](#)

[On Space Travel and Research](#)

[Some Unintended Effects of Computers](#)

[The Trouble with Surveys](#)

[On Crime](#)

[A Brief Outline of the Harm Done by Improper Religions](#)

[On the Separation of Church and State and the Case Against Christianity and Other Improper Religions](#)

[On Prayer](#)

[On “The Question of God”](#)

[More on Public TV](#)

[On Pro-Choice versus Pro-Life](#)

[On Awards](#)

[On a New Theory of Classes](#)

[Little Essays on Big Problems](#)

[On the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

[How to Find the Day of the Week in Any Year](#)

[Expected Value of a Texas State Lottery Ticket](#)

This essay belongs to an earlier period when the number of numbers from which to choose 6 was 50. However, it illustrates the essential dishonesty of the Great State of Texas rather nicely. Amusingly, when they added three more numbers, thus reducing the probability of winning drastically, they advertised “Now, with three more numbers to choose from”, as though three more numbers for the same price made it more of a bargain, which some users probably thought to be the case. On the other hand, a large number of players have been choosing 1-2-3-4-5-6 because they think no one else with whom they would have to share their prize will choose it. They know that this sequence is just as likely to come up as any other sequence, which shows that some players may be more numerate than we had previously guessed.

## **Essays on Drug Legalization**

[Letter to Time Magazine in A Concise Introduction to Logic - Page 12 - Google Books](#)

[The Case for Drug Legalization and Decontrol in the United States](#)

[Fallacies and Unstated Assumptions in Prevention and Treatment](#)

[A Review of the 1990 Drug Policy Foundation Conference](#)

[A Seven-Point Post-Prohibition Policy](#)

[Can the State Teach that Drugs are Wrong and Harmful?](#)

[Despite Recent Flurry of Anti-Drug Propaganda, Drug Prohibition is Indefensible](#)

Two Crucial Issues in the Argument for Drug Legalization

The Trouble with Surveys

Junior Goes to School

## Social Media, Music, and Model Railroading

I am trying to complete a few of the projects I began many years ago when I thought I would live forever. These projects are spread across (i) science and the limitations it places upon rational political economy, (ii) the great art of music - especially jazz music, and (iii) the world's greatest hobby, namely, model railroading, whereby the strange, deadly beauty created as a result of industrialization can be preserved in the only places where it can do no additional harm, namely, museums - if we may include among museums the private miniaturizations found in the homes of hobbyists.

### Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/twayburn/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ThomasLWayburn>

Reddit: <https://www.reddit.com/>

Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/>

### Music

<https://dematerialism.net/jazzandclassical.htm>

<https://slimwiki.com/wayburn/jazzandclassical>

From time to time, YouTube videos hyperlinked in these two websites have been taken down ostensibly because someone claims to own the copyright on, for example, a Charlie Parker record, recorded over 70 years ago by an artist who died in 1955. Although copyrights were devised originally so that government could interfere with art, they benefit the artist and consumer by protecting art from counterfeiters and imposters. But, this no longer applies to art and artists that belong to the world at large and cannot be subsumed under the nonsensical and harmful notion of “intellectual property”, which we need to fight vigorously. See <https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/not-ipr.en.html> and <https://aeon.co/essays/the-idea-of-intellectual-property-is-nonsensical-and-pernicious> .

### Model Railroading

<https://modrr.net>

<https://modrr.blogspot.com/>

<https://slimwiki.com/wayburn/modrr>

# [Other Useful Hyperlinks](#)

[Energy and Population Hyperlinks](#)

[Peak Oil Hyperlinks](#)

[Open People, Open Source, and Public Domain Hyperlinks](#)

[Other Useful Links](#)

## About the Author

This website was designed, written, and constructed by me, Thomas Wayburn of Houston, Texas. I am responsible for its contents. Please address all correspondence to [wayburn@dematerialism.net](mailto:wayburn@dematerialism.net). Corrections, suggestions, and constructive criticism will be appreciated. Vituperation is acceptable too.

Born March 24, 1934, Detroit, Michigan. • Redford High School Detroit 1951. • BS chemical engineering Michigan 1956. • MS mathematics NYU 1968. • PhD chemical engineering Utah 1980. • Studied jazz drumming with Lennie Tristano, Joe Morello, Philly Joe Jones, Cozy Cole, Stanley Specter. • Here is an mp3 version of the record I made with Lennie Tristano and Peter Ind when I was 22 years old. If you are interested, copy <https://dematerialism.net/tristano.mp3> and paste into browser.

Hack engineering, chemical process design. • Teaching chemical engineering at various levels: thermodynamics, plant design, applied mathematics. • Writing and reviewing for the peer-reviewed scientific and engineering literature, principally numerical analysis. • Software development, computational chemical engineering. • Political activism, principally anti-war and anti-growth, preaching limits to growth and advent of Peak Oil. • Computational research in energy and economics. • Internet publishing: this website • Railroad modeling and model railroad photography: <https://modrr.net/>.

View an earlier resume: <https://www.dematerialism.net/Resume97.html>

I am trying to complete a few of the projects I began many years ago when I thought I would live forever. These projects are spread across (i) science and the limitations it places upon rational political economy, (ii) the great art of music - especially jazz music, and (iii) the world's greatest hobby, namely, model railroading, whereby the strange, deadly beauty created as a result of industrialization can be preserved in the only places where it can do no additional harm, namely, museums - if we may include among museums the private miniaturizations found in the homes of hobbyists.

A short interval of my life around 1960 is described in "Jimmy and Me", which enjoyed special editorial treatment without having to submit to the phony peer-review system. ("Jimmy" was Jimmy Stevenson, an aspiring bass player from

Detroit, who was ready to play at any time.)

<https://www.jazzloftproject.org/blog/general/jimmy-and-me-by-tom-wayburn>

A number of people who take a special interest in Chet Baker have asked me to tell the story of the short period in which the deservedly famous musicians Chet Baker and Philly Joe Jones lived with me in my distinguished apartment on East Twenty-First Street. I am putting this together bit by bit

in <https://www.dematerialism.net/mystory.htm>

Tom Wayburn, drummer, vibraphonist, recording engineer; computational chemical engineer, net energy analyst; political economist, philosopher; model railroad planner, builder, photographer; computer builder, programmer, operator, and technologist; document writer, essayist (That is, from time to time I have been some of these things. I no longer have the strength to keep up with much of anything. I shall be happy to edit my writing, finish my model railroad, write up some of my experiences with music and musicians, and edit a few dozen audio tapes. I have some interesting stories to tell – at least I have been asked to tell them. Also, I still have a great deal to say that I have not committed to paper – yet.