

1. Full citation.

Vogel, David. *The Politics of Precaution : Regulating Health, Safety, and Environmental Risks in Europe and the United States*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012. Ebook Library. Web. 23 Jan. 2013.

2. Where did/does the author work, what else has s/he written about, and what are her/his credentials? (This question only has to be answered once for Vogel.)

David Vogel is a professor at the University of California, Berkeley in the school of business. He is the Solomon P. Lee Chair in Business Ethics. He has his PhD of Politics from Princeton University. His research areas are in consumer and environmental regulation in Europe and United States, corporate social responsibility in global economy, food safety, biodiversity and biosafety. He has published writings on European food safety, transatlantic regulatory cooperation, trade and environment in a global economy, and Jewish environmental ethics.

3. What are the topics of the text?

The topics of the text are regulations in the European Union compared to the United States, trade disputes, risks, and media and society.

4. What is the main argument of the text?

The main argument of the text is that the United States and the European Union are responding to risks differently. However, there is no real correlation between the amount of actual risk that the society sees and the regulations created by policy makers about the risks.

5. Describe at least three ways that the argument is supported.

Firstly, the United States and European Union have different outlooks towards their government. There is more "hostility to 'big government'" in the United States. Secondly, political parties have sustainability as a platform, but do nothing about it. Instead, they use it as a bargaining chip for more votes. Thirdly, the media is instilling more fear into the public with action. Inaccurate statistics are in the public to make society move with fear at every step.

6. What three quotes capture the message of the text?

"But more commonly there has been little or no relationship between the magnitude of actual harms or risks faced by citizens in either Europe or the United States and the response of policy makers to them." (23)

"But it is important to distinguish between regulatory policies that disadvantage American producers and those that advantage European firms... the EU's beef hormone ban, did not reduce beef imports into Europe; rather, it shifted their sources to countries whose farmers made less extensive use of hormones." (26)

"In the U.S. many laws and regulations... require that action be taken to anticipate, prevent, or reduce risk *where there is scientific uncertainty or a lack of clear evidence of risk.*" (32)

7. What three questions about environmental risk and precaution does this article leave you with?

Carrie Ann Drexel
Governing Environmental Risk
02/05/13

Why does the United States advertise such a non-regulatory technique if they actually think that regulations are necessary when “action be taken to anticipate, prevent, or reduce risk *where there is scientific uncertainty or a lack of clear evidence of risk.*”?

What type of media and political parties need to be evolved in order for a real social movement to occur?

Does a social change only occur after a stream of “unfortunate events”? Why is it necessary to wait until it is too late to make any movement?

8. What three points, details or references from the text did you follow up on to advance your perspective on environmental risk and precaution? (Provide citations, with a brief explanation of what you learned. One of these should be fully annotated, as your second required reading for each week.)

I wanted to do research on the idea of fear. Americans have just as many risks as European citizens, but Americans seem so much more fearful. Even though they feel this fear they do not act on it in the form of regulations. Instead Americans are more afraid of the idea of restriction and regulations. It is important to see why Americans view regulations as bad, instead of as a safety measure for a better future. I have read an article about American fear. This article states that it is human nature mixed with the media that has created the risk storm that is inside Americans today.

Jane Spencer and Cynthia Crossen, “Why Do Americans Feel that Danger Lurks Everywhere?” Wall Street Journal, April 3, 2003.