

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, food safety, hormones, pesticides, and health concerns.

4. What is the main argument of the text?

The main argument of the text is until 1990 the United States had more stringent policies towards food safety, but at that point the roles had switched and European Union developed stricter policies. The reason for this role change was from different political influences.

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

The first way the argument was supported was the evidence of increase of disease caused by injected food. One example is an increase in Britain of the disease CJD (mad cow disease). The second way the argument is defended is public opinion influenced policy decisions. In Europe public opinion influenced the ban on beef hormones. However, scientific studies done by the European government proved that the hormone ban did not have scientific basis. The United States had a similar nonscientific basis ban on unpasteurized cheese. It seemed that Americans cared more about hygiene than the taste of cheese. The third support is businesses choosing not to use GMO's in their food. The reduction of GM in food has helped raised sales.

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

"The Alar controversy demonstrated the ability of an activist group in the United States during the late 1980s to ring an 'alarm bell' that became highly amplified and effectively transformed the terms of public debate." (53)

"...not all political decisions are based on science... no matter what the scientists say, I'm afraid that we Europeans prefer to eat our meat free of hormones." (58)

"Some American producers have, however, voluntarily reduced the use of animal antibiotics. In 2004, McDonalds, responding to pressure from consumer groups, announced that it would phase out its purchases of meat from poultry and livestock that had been fed drugs to promote their growth." (95)

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

Carrie Ann Drexel  
Governing Environmental Risk  
02/12/13

At what point are companies willing to change policies voluntarily and when are policies necessary?

When should scientific evidence be used for support and not used? When is it acceptable to make a ban without scientific evidence?

Who determines when a product is a risk? Media/Government/Public?

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 was interested in the different policies created in the 1990s in American. There were threats on apples, milk, beef, and sorts of food. It was interesting how they decided which ones were more of a threat to the public. I looked into further about milk. The cows were given many hormones and antibiotics to produce more milk. The public was misled into thinking their milk was all natural. I read more in the article "Udder Insanity!".

Philip Elmer-Dewitt, "Udder Insanity!", *Time Magazine*, May 17, 1993