

**1. Full citation:**

Vogel, David. "Chapter One: The Transatlantic Shift in Regulatory Stringency." *The Politics of Precaution*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2012. 1-22. Print.

**2. Where did/does the author work, what else has s/he written about, and what are her/his credentials:**

David Vogel is a professor in the Political Science Department at the University of California at Berkeley. He has also written about food safety, corporate social responsibility, as well as various environmental ethical issues. In addition to being a professor at Berkeley, their credentials also include being the Solomon P. Lee Chair in Business Ethics, as well as a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University.

**3. What are the topics of the text:**

The first chapter in Vogel's book, *The Politics of Precaution*, offers a brief yet informative historical background on environmental regulatory trends. Vogel also utilizes the first chapter to offer a glimpse into what the other chapters of his book will discuss.

**4. What is the main argument of the text:**

The main argument of the first chapter is that there has been a regulatory shift between both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. On one hand, the United States has gone from more risk-averse to less while the European Union has done the opposite, being more risk-averse than they were previously, mainly in part due to their widespread adoption of the precautionary principle.

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

- a) In the beginning of the chapter, Vogel gives an example of the US being more risk-averse several decades ago while the EU was not. Such examples include the United States being more stringent on drug approval in 1962, banning the artificial sweetener cyclamate in 1969, and requiring catalytic converters in new cars as far back as 1975 as opposed to the European Union that didn't require catalytic converters until 1992.
- b) Vogel also gives examples that are more current to show how the European Union is more risk-averse now than they were in the past. These include the EU prohibiting the use of growth hormones for cattle while the US still allows it, allowing around one fourth the number of genetically modified organisms for commercial use, as well as the EU ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 while the United States has not.
- c) Vogel also discusses what the precautionary principle is and how it has been applied in several environmental regulations.

**6. What three quotes capture the message of the text:**

- a) “In 1962, the United States enacted regulations for the approval of drugs that were more stringent than those of Great Britain and Germany. In 1969, the United States banned the artificial sweetener cyclamate, which remains permitted in each member state of the European Union. In 1975, catalytic converters were required for all new cars sold in the United States; they were required for all new cars sold in the EU beginning in 1992. In 1979, the plant-growth regulator Alar was banned in the United States; all but one European country as well as the EU permits its use.”
- b) In 1997, the EU ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which committed its member states to reduce their emissions of six greenhouse gases (GHG); the United States has not done so. In 1999, the EU banned the use of six phthalates in children’s products; the United States adopted a similar restriction in 2008. In 2003, the EU banned the use of six hazardous materials in electrical and electronic products beginning in 2006; the United States still permits their use. In 2006, the EU significantly strengthened and broadened its health and environmental regulations for chemicals; the last comprehensive statutory reform of American chemical regulation took place in 1976.”
- c) “The EU’s adoption of the precautionary principle has become a major focus of transatlantic tension in other forums as well. It reflects and has reinforced an important difference between the EU and the United States about the appropriate criteria for regulating risks. The precautionary principle has increased the discretion of Europeans policy makers by enabling them to impose restrictions on commercial activities whose risks are uncertain, unproven, or disputed.”

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

- a) What is the history of the precautionary principle?
- b) What causes the large lags in time between the US and EU in terms of adoption of certain environmental regulations?
- c) What does David Vogel believe to be the most important thing to keep in mind when studying environmental regulation.

**8. What three points, details or references from the text did you follow up on to advance your perspective on environmental risk and precaution:**

- a) I looked more into the history of the precautionary principle. “It evolved out of the German socio-legal tradition in the 1930s and in some ways is an expansion of the English common law concept of “duty of care.”  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precautionary\\_principle#Origins\\_and\\_theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precautionary_principle#Origins_and_theory))

- b) I looked at more examples of risk averse environmental regulations to see what other kinds of regulations exist. These primarily involved banning of the use of certain chemicals.
- c) I looked more into the reasons why the US did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol. It was believed that the Kyoto Protocol would harm the United States' economy.