

1. Full citation:

Vogel, David. "Chapter Five: Chemicals and Hazardous Substances." *The Politics of Precaution*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2012. 153-188. 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 fifth chapter in Vogel's book, *The Politics of Precaution*, discusses regulation in regards to chemicals and hazardous substances.

4. What is the main argument of the text:

The main argument of the fifth chapter continues with the overall trend that the United States went from more to less risk adverse during the early 1990s while the European Union went from being less to more risk adverse during the same period of time. There Vogel utilizes examples pertaining to chemicals and hazardous substances to present his evidence throughout the fifth chapter.

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

- a) Vogel gives an example of how the European Union passed REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) in 2006 while the United States hasn't passed anything since 1976 which was the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- b) Vogel details how legislation passed abroad can have effects elsewhere.
- c) Vogel makes a comparison between REACH and TSCA

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

- a) "The 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) significantly strengthened American chemical regulations and contributed to the 1979 decision of the European Union to both harmonize and strengthen its chemical regulations, though they remained weaker than those of the United States. While there has been no major statutory change in American chemical regulation since then, in 2006 the EU approved REACH—the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals, which made European chemical regulations significantly more stringent and comprehensive than those of the United States."

- b) “Significantly, in 2008 Dow Chemical announced that it would prepare REACH-qualifying dossiers for all its products, not just those sold in Europe. This suggests that REACH may well have a broader impact on the \$637 billion U.S. chemical marketplace, and possibly lead to the voluntary withdrawal by both manufacturers and retailers of chemicals classified by REACH as of “very high concern.”
- c) “While TSCA had made American chemical regulations more stringent and comprehensive than in the EU, REACH reversed this pattern. According to a 2007 report to Congress prepared by the General Accountability Office (GAO) that compared American and European approaches to the risks of toxic chemicals, they now differed in several important respects.”

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

- a) Does RoHS compliance have any exceptions for small businesses?
- b) When does China plan to put its own version of RoHS in place?
- c) How much does the chemical industry spend on lobbying?

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) After looking more into RoHS, I found that there are certain exemptions including: “military equipment, space equipment, equipment designed to be part of another piece of equipment falling outside the scope of RoHS, large scale industry tools, large scale fixed installations, means of transport for persons or goods, non-road mobile machinery, active implantable medical devices, photovoltaic panels, equipment for research and development only available business to business.” Source:
<http://export.gov/europeanunion/weerohs/rohsinformation/index.asp>
- b) According to the website, China RoHS has been in place since 2007. Source:
<http://www.chinarohs.com/faq.html>
- c) The chemical industry spends about nine million dollars a year lobbying. Source:
<http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/clientsum.php?id=D000000365>