International Handbook of Pollution Control

Edited by Edward J. Kormondy

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PREFACE

In undertaking this project more than five years ago, I was persuaded that a niche in the then available literature was unfilled, namely, that concerning a broad survey of the regulation of air, water, and soil pollution and of toxic substances in industrialized and developing countries of both socialist and capitalist bent. As most readers of this volume already know, contamination is no respecter of the artificial boundaries that define most nations; pollutants in the air or water do not stop when the atmosphere or rivers cross into another country. The juxtaposition of boundaries and the commonality of pollution impose an internationalization of awareness and implore a mutuality of coordinated response. Although, as this volume will attest, considerable progress has been made both within and between sovereign states, various factors, almost exclusively parochially economic and political in final measure, have stayed the commonness of attack that transboundary pollution problems demand.

Invitations to participate in this project were extended to a number of persons known or recommended as being knowledgeable about pollution problems in their respective countries. Such cognizance is not restricted to the scientific community, and thus it is refreshing to note that a number of the chapters were prepared by members of the legal profession and those with political science strengths. Some of the authors were known to me from having prepared for the same publisher the *Handbook on Contemporary Developments in World Ecology* (1981). In other cases, I relied on the good graces of some of those previous contributors, as well as other colleagues, to recommend individuals or organizations knowledgeable in the field and able to recommend potential authors from different countries. In addition, I sought, through various sources, individuals capable of developing integrative essays of broader scope.

As a result of these efforts, twenty-four countries of broad geographic coverage

xvi PREFACE

are represented in this volume. In addition, a broadly cast introductory chapter and an integrative one on international regulation complete the text. Following the chapters are lists of resource literature, abstracting and bibliographic services, organizations, and journals concerned with pollution and pollution control.

An additional six individuals did not respond to my several letters of invitation to participate in the project. Seven additional persons contracted to develop articles failed to do so. This accounts for the absence of essays from Brazil, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Israel and an integrative essay on the effects of deregulation on pollution abatement. While recognizing that preparing such essays is essentially "voluntary" work, I admit to considerable disappointment concerning those who failed to fulfill their obligations in time to allow for possible alternate author recruitment.

Each author was asked to address the following points insofar as they pertained in a chapter approximating five thousand words: historical antecedents and the impetus for pollution control; major pollution problems from a regional, national, and transboundary perspective; national and other policies; and implementation, including the role of governmental and nongovernmental agencies or groups, the prioritization of issues, fines and incentives, and prohibitions and liability. Each was asked also to provide, in addition to the standard citing of references, lists of organizations, journals, source books, and bibliographic and abstracting services pertinent to his or her country. Differing intra-nation conditions and resulting emphases, as well as the particular perspective of the authors, resulted in chapters that are unique rather than stereotyped; yet each, in its way, encompasses the intended outline. All chapters were edited to provide consistency in styling and language.

The chapters have been arranged according to major world regions and are in alphabetical order within a region. The thematic chapters introduce the volume.

This project could not have been completed without the willingness of these authors to prepare their respective contributions without monetary compensation. I am grateful and indebted to them and express appreciation for the timeliness with which most completed their task. I also acknowledge the assistance of the many persons in various countries who assisted in identifying potential authors. In this regard, I particularly single out my colleague J. Frank McCormick of the University of Tennessee. Cornelia Balogh, reference librarian at California State University-Los Angeles, did yeoman's service in ferreting out lists of organizations and governmental agencies that were subsequently contacted for identification of potential authors. Kenneth Herrick, Director of the University of Hawaii-Hilo Library, provided invaluable service in tracking down incomplete references and other bits of information. To all of the people who contributed in different ways, I express my appreciation. I believe that, collectively, they have provided a most worthwhile contribution to an understanding of the current state of pollution control.

Edward J. Kormondy

CONTENTS

	TABLES	xiii
	PREFACE	xv
1.	Introduction Posanyi J. Madati and Edward J. Kormondy	1
	The Nature of Pollution	1
	Role of Extranational Stimuli	13
	Individuals and Organizations	17
2.	International Aspects of Pollution Control Allen L.	
	Springer	19
	Past State Practice	19
	The Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment	22
	Post-Stockholm Developments	24
	Conclusion	30
	Notes	31
ГНІ	E AMERICAS	35
3.	Argentina Gloria M. A. Dominguez and Beatriz A. D.	
	Lukez	37
	Historical Background and Moves toward Pollution Control	38
	Major Problems of Pollution	40

•	CONTENTO
V1	CONTENTS
7.1	COLLIE

	Environmental Legislation	47
	Implementation	50
	Acknowledgments	53
	Bibliography	53
4.	Canada James W. Moore	57
	Major Environmental Problems	58
	National and Provincial Policies	63
	Implementation	65
	Acknowledgments	69
	References	69
5.	Costa Rica Luis A. Fournier-Origgi and Manuel	
	Chavarría	71
	Major Pollution Problems	73
	National and Other Policies	80
	Liability of Damage Suits	83
	Role of Nongovernmental Associations	84
	Priority of Issues	85
	References	85
6.	Mexico Enrique Riva Palacio	87
	Historical Antecedents and Impetus for Pollution Control	87
	Major Pollution Problems	91
	National and Other Policies	93
	Bibliography	94
7.	United States John M. Neuhold	95
	Historical Antecedents and Traditions	95
	Major Pollution Problems	99
	National and Other Policies	102
	Regulatory Strategies and Implementation	105
	References	112
	Bibliography	112
8.	Venezuela Roger J. Carrillo	113
	Historical Antecdents and Impetus for Pollution Control	113

CONTENTS	vii
----------	-----

	Major Pollution Problems in Venezuela	115
	National and Other Policies	121
	Implementation	123
	Acknowledgment	125
	References	125
	Bibliography	129
EUR	ROPE	135
9.	Czechoslovakia Jaroslav Hrbáček, Bedrich Binek, and Václav Mejstřík	137
	Historical Development of Pollution and Its Control	137
	Major Pollution Problems	140
	National Policies of Environmental Pollution	143
	Implementation	146
	References	150
10.	Federal Republic of Germany Hans-Jürgen Jäger, Karl	
10.	Friedrich Wentzel, and C. Jeffrey Brandt	153
	Historical Antecedents and Impetus for Pollution Control	153
	Major Pollution Problems	154
	National and Other Policies	167
	Implementation	169
	References	170
	Bibliography	170
11.	Greece Glykeria P. Sioutis	171
	The Legal Notion of the Environment and Protection of the	
	Environment	171
	Aspects of Protection of the Environment	172
	Administrative Structures for Protection of the Environment	175
	Sanctions	176
	Principal Provisions for Protection of the Environment	177
	Bibliography	177
12.	Hungary Imre Szebényi and György Pálmai	179
	Historical Antecedents and Impetus for Pollution Control	179
	Major Pollution Problems	182

	CONTENTE
V111	CONTENTS

	National Policy	187
	Implementation	193
	Acknowledgments	197
13.	Italy Roberto Marchetti	199
	History of and Impetus for Pollution Control	199
	Major Pollution Problems	202
	National and Other Policies	205
	Implementation	207
	References	207
14.	Norway Kjell Baalsrud	209
	Development of Pollution Control	209
	Major Pollution Problems	211
	National and Other Policies	215
	Implementation	216
	Acknowledgments	218
15.	Sweden Göran A. Persson	219
	Historical Antecedents and Impetus for Pollution Control	219
	Major Pollution Problems	220
	National and Other Policies	222
	Implementation	229
	Bibliography	232
16.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern	
	Ireland Malcolm John Forster	233
	Historical Antecedents and Impetus for Pollution Control	233
	Major Pollution Problems	235
	National and Other Policies	237
	Implementation	244
	Notes	245
OCI	EANIA	249
17.	Australia Alan Gilpin	251
	Overview and Historical Background	251

CONTRENTED	•
CONTENTS	1X
CONTENTS	*/*

	Major Pollution Problems	254
	Federal and State Policies	256
	Ministerial Bodies	268
	Summary of Achievements	269
18.	New Zealand Philip Tortell	271
	Most Significant Pollution Problems	272
	Legislation and Other Regulatory Provisions	275
	Administrative Responsibilities	278
	Future Prospects	280
	Acknowledgments	281
	References	281
AFR	RICA	283
19.	Nigeria James Kolawole Egunjobi	285
	Domestic Waste	286
	National Policies on Pollution Control	290
	References	294
20.	Sudan Mohamed El Mahdi Beshir and Mohamed Obeid	
	Mubarek	297
	History of Environmental Concern	298
	Pollution in the Modern Sector	299
	The Ecological Imbalance	304
	Pollution Control	305
	References	307
21.	Tanzania Posanyi J. Madati	309
	Major Pollution Problems	310
	National and Other Policies for Controlling Pollution	311
	Implementation	315
ASI	A	321
22.	Japan Tsumugu Totsuka	323
	Historical Antecedents and Impetus for Pollution Control	323

	Major Pollution Problems	324
	National and Other Policies	326
	Implementation	330
	References	334
	Bibliography	334
23.	Korea Kye Chil Oh	337
	Background	337
	Major Pollution Problems	339
	National and Other Policies	348
	Implementation	349
	Conclusion	354
	Acknowledgments	354
	References	354
	Bibliography	356
24.	People's Republic of China Rui-Lin Jin and Zheng-Kang Cheng	357
	Historical Antecedents and Impetus for Pollution Control	357
	Major Environmental Problems	359
	National and Other Policies	361
	Implementation	374
25.	Singapore Kuan-Hon Chow	377
	Historical Antecedents and Impetus for Pollution Control	377
	Major Pollution Problems	378
	National Policies	381
	Implementation	385
	Acknowledgment	390
	References	390
	Bibliography	392
26.	Taiwan Tsu-Chang Hung and Chang-Hung Chou	393
	Background	393
	Air Pollution	394
	Water Pollution	395

CONTENTE	
CONTENTS	V1
CONTENTS	V1

Municipal, Industrial, and Radioactive Wastes	400
References	402
APPENDIX A: Journals and Periodicals Dealing with Pollution and Pollution Control	405
APPENDIX B: Organizations Concerned with Pollution and Pollution Control	413
APPENDIX C: Bibliographic and Abstracting Services on Pollution and Pollution Control	433
Source Books on Pollution and Pollution Control Edward J. Kormondy	439
ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS	447
INDEV	461

TABLES

1.1	Examples of Environmental Problems	3
1.2	Examples of Pollutants	4
1.3	Poisoning by Environmental Pollutants in Japan	11
1.4	United Nations Agencies Dealing with Environmental	
	Pollution and Control	14
4.1	New Oil Resources in Canada	61
4.2	Number of Environmental Acts Administered by the	
	Governments of Canada	66
5.1	Classification of the Importance of Pollution by	
	Inhabitants of the Metropolitan Area of San Jose	
	according to Educational Level	74
5.2	Importance Given to the Four Problems That Rank in the	
	First and Second Places of Importance in the Country	75
5.3	Principal Watersheds Affected by Organic Wastes	75
5.4	Amounts of Detergents Found in Principal Rivers of the	
	Central Valley, Costa Rica	76
5.5	Variation in Number and Importance of Insect Species	
	Affecting Cotton Plantations in Nicaragua	79
7.1	Federal Legislation Dealing with the Control of	
	Radionuclides in the Environment	105
7.2	Summary of Penalties for Criminal Violation of Pollution	
	Control Acts	111
10.1	Forest Damage by Damage Class	156
10.2	Ozone Concentrations (ug/m³) at Selected Monitoring	
	Sites in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1982	157
10.3	Annual Emissions of Sulfur Dioxide	160

xiv
XIV

10.4	Annual Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides (as NO ₂)	161
10.5	Annual Emissions of Organic Compounds	161
10.6	Sulfur Emission (1978) and Annual Sulfur Deposition	101
10.0		
	(October 1978–September 1980) in Europe Based on	
	Model Calculations	162
10.7	Water Quality Based on Various Parameters at Different	
	Monitoring Sites of the North Sea Research Program	165
10.8	Amount of Waste Collected in Domestic Waste Disposal	
	Programs	166
12.1	Effluent Standards and Fining Rates	190
22.1	Ratio of Samples Exceeding Environmental Quality	
	Standards in Terms of Toxic Substances	327
22.2	Ambient Air Quality Standards	329
22.3	Environmental Quality Standards Relating to the	
	Protection of Human Health	330
25.1	Air Pollution Level at Normal Temperature and Pressure	
	in Singapore during the Past Decade (1974–1983)	380
25.2	Singapore's Environmental Legislation and Regulations	382

Posanyi J. Madati Edward J. Kormondy

THE NATURE OF POLLUTION

Human activities inevitably and increasingly bring about a redistribution of materials and energy in the environment. When such redistribution, initiated by human or other activities, endangers or is likely to endanger human health or well being or human resources, it can be termed *pollution*. For instance, water vapor can hardly be regarded as a pollutant, but if the emission of water vapor in the atmosphere in sufficient amounts were to befog a wide area of a city and its highways, it could be considered a pollutant. Some pollutants can be entities in the wrong place at the wrong time; other pollutants are entities created anew that function contrary to the interests of an ecological system.

According to most dictionary definitions, to pollute is to make or render unclean, to defile, desecrate, and profane. In November 1965 the Environmental Pollution Panel of the President's Science Advisory Committee defined pollution as follows:

Environmental pollution is the unfavorable alteration of our surroundings, wholly or largely as a by-product of man's actions, through direct or indirect effects of changes in energy patterns, radiation levels, chemical and physical constitution and abundances of organisms. These changes may affect man directly, or through his supplies of water and of agricultural and other biological products, his physical objects or possessions, or his opportunities for recreation and appreciation of nature.

Pollutants are introduced by natural phenomena such as forest fires, volcanic eruptions, floods, collapsing river banks, or dams, as well as by nearly all human activities, exacerbated by urbanization and industrialization. As suggested by the definition above, pollutants fall into several major categories: chemical sub-

2 INTRODUCTION

stances such as organochlorine compounds or radionuclides; geochemical substances such as dust, particulate matter, or sediments; biological agents such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi, or molds; and physical agents such as noise and waste heat.

Pollution Problems and Pollution Effects

An overview of the environmental harm caused by pollution is shown in Table 1.1. Not surprisingly, the major victims of environmental pollution are humans, directly or indirectly. Because of the nature of environmental processes, whatever gets into the air or water or onto the land invariably has the potential for affecting the human ecosystem. Table 1.2 demonstrates this concept using examples of air pollutants.

As the pages of this volume will amply demonstrate, pollution of the air, water, and soil, whether locally or distantly produced, renders detrimental effects on the environment physically and culturally as well as from a health perspective. By its very nature, human activity results in by-products; alone or in combination with other by-products, the result is contamination of the environment. What the various authors in this book convey are the attempts by fiat as well as plea to control if not eliminate the potential harmful effects of these activities. The consensus is that it is far more effective and efficient to control than to correct the untoward effects of pollution.

Historical Occurrences of Environmental Problems

Environmental pollution is not an occurrence of the recent past or the period since the onset of industrialization in the middle of the nineteenth century. Air pollution is certainly as old as the first use of fire and the dust storms that assuredly occurred on Earth long before the advent of *Homo sapiens*. The agricultural revolution and industrialization have truly exacerbated the problems of pollution, these having been well documented. But they indeed have been chronicled much earlier.

As early as 361 B.C. Theophrastus, sometimes acknowledged as the first environmentalist, proclaimed that fossil substances called coals burn for a long time, but their smell is "troublesome and disagreeable." In 65 B.C. the poet Horace lamented that the shrines of Rome were being blackened by smoke.

Promulgation of the first smoke-abatement law occurred in 1273 to protect Edwardian England from risks to human health. Soon afterward, in 1306, a royal proclamation was signed banning the burning of coal in London. When an industry owner disobeyed this royal proclamation, he was tried, found guilty, and beheaded!

In 1666 an Englishman petitioned the king of England that lime burners and soap boilers be removed from London because their industrial processes were polluting the atmosphere. Some 286 years later, the London fog or smog disaster

Table 1.1 Examples of Environmental Problems

Problem/Situation	Primary Pollution			Typical Harmful Effect
	Air	Soil	Water	On Man
Pollution of sur- face waters	Х		Х	Human health
Pollution of un- derground waters			Х	Human health
Biological accumu- lation of toxins	X	X	X	Human health, food chains and supply
Toxicity to man	Х	X	X	Human health
Toxicity to terres- trial flora and fauna	Х	Х		Human health, food sup ply and raw materials supply
Toxicity to aquatic flora and fauna	X		X	Human health, food sup ply and amenities
Agricultural and horticultural practices	Х	Х	Х	Human health, food and raw material supply
Other industrial practices	X	X	X	Human health, food and raw material supply
Disposal of wastes	X	Х	X	Human health, food and raw material supply
Effects on ozone layer	X			Various long term effects
Usage of land	X	Х	Х	Human health, food and raw material supply
Effects on weather	X	Х	Х	Various long and short term effects
Reduction of sun- light	X			Human health, food and raw material supply
Interference to navigation			X	Raw material supply and amenities
Interference to aquatic sports			Х	Amenities
Odors	Х	X	X	Human health or nuisance and amenitie
Damage to property	х	Х	Х	Human health and life and amenities