



**Book Review**

**Environmental and Resource Protection Law by Ke Zhou,  
Luozhi Yi, Xinjian Su and Youhai Sun**

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*Environmental and Resource Protection Law*, by Ke Zhou, Luo Zhi Yi, Xinjian Su, and Youhai Sun is an authored book; that provides a deep insight into the basic theory of environmental law by focusing on China's environmental law. This book is a nice addition to environmental law literature because it focuses on all major fields of environmental law i.e. Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Soil Pollution, Noise Pollution, Marine Environmental, and Natural Resources(Zhou, Yi et al. 2023). Basically, this book covers two areas; the first one is a general overview of environmental law and legal environmental issues. Whereas the second area is specific Chinese Law related to different kinds of environmental protection. Environmental protection is a fundamental issue to attain the goal of sustainable development across the world(Afzal, Fatima et al. 2024). The incorporation of environmental goals into the international law regime offers critical policy lessons for policymakers and market members to consider. The issues and Acts discussed in the book are not only significant and applicable for the Chinese policymakers and industry leaders but also can enlighten the global community while it is struggling to balance the policies and environmental protection.

In chapter one, the authors categorically explain the concepts of Environment, Environmental issues, and Ecological Civilisation. The concept of environmental protection, the content of environmental protection, and the national policy of China were also discussed in this chapter. In chapter five, the authors stated that pollution is the undesirable modification of the physical or biological characteristics of any component of the environment through the addition of matter or energy, the alteration of which induces subsequent adverse effects on ecosystems or living organisms. Although the laws in the Chinese legal framework are comprehensive enough to address the above issues, one may wonder if these laws can be fully implemented in China, especially in areas where industries and the economy play a significant role. It also focuses on prevention and uses instruments like environmental audits and legal instruments, such as emission permits and ecological compensation. However, the merits that come with the implementation of these measures remain questionable: are they effective in reducing pollution or are they mere public relations stunts? One of the rather distinctive features of the framework is the call for public engagement, where ordinary people are urged to report instances of

violation. However, this raises a critical question: how much can an individual feel that he/she can stand up against the giant polluting companies and against local government that might be involved in polluting activities? The general problem is the pursuit of economic development and the preservation of the environment. Is it possible for the fast industrializing economy to pursue its developmental process in harmony with demanding environmental standards or is there always a zero-sum game where one side's gain is the other side's loss? Pollution continues to be one of the most challenging environmental issues due to emissions from industries, vehicles, and energy production units, which was covered by this book. To this end, legal measures have been put in place about the responsibilities that are assigned to government departments, polluters, and regulatory authorities. Nevertheless, many questions are raised regarding their efficiency, especially in areas where economic reliance on coal and heavy industries exists. There are various regulatory measures like emission caps, dust control, and industrial pollutants control; still, to implement them, there is dependence on local government bodies, which are inclined towards the prospects of economic growth, rather than environmental conservation (Baumbach 2012). Measures taken to regulate industrial and vehicle emissions reveal an inclined change to severe control but the sanction imposed may not necessarily deter the people at fault. Performance transparency and other forms of real-time monitoring and accountability are important but still undeveloped in many areas. Also, since addressing pollution control during extreme weather conditions is important to the public's well-being, this emphasis on crisis mitigation might lead to questions of whether fundamental problems are being sufficiently addressed. For regional cooperation strategies to work there needs to be a fair allocation of resources as well as clarified responsibilities for change to occur. These efforts lead to a broader question: Is it possible for such an economy to change gears and transition to a cleaner source of energy without compromising on the GDP growth rate? The conflict between environmental objectives and economic growth shows that a more effective and comprehensive system should be put in place for sustainable development. Noise pollution is another form of environmental pollution that is commonly disregarded, and is known to have a potential impact on both social and earth health, but the authors discussed it in detail. It results from industries, transportation, construction, and other forms of development which have negative impacts on the health of the society through stress, sleeping disorders, and hearing impairment. Despite legal frameworks addressing noise pollution and its effects being in place, there are several problems encountered when implementing these legal provisions, especially in expanding urban centers. The attempt to control or regulate industrial and construction noise has been evident by the formulation of laws and policies, but their implementation is often partial (Murphy and King 2022). Companies in industries and construction sites are allowed exemptions or do not adhere strictly to emission standards, mainly because of a lack of supervision. Transportation is one of the biggest sources of noise pollution and it shows the inefficiency of the current laws. There must be measures like restricted horn usage and noise barriers; however, these measures are inadequate to cope with the increase in traffic and the increasing pace of modern civilization. Measures aimed at limiting noise nuisance in residential and recreational areas are indispensable to maintaining public health, but they tend to conflict with economic and structural considerations. The book also covers one of the most significant areas of concern is the protection of natural resources that are related to environmental conservation as well as the conservation of biological diversity. Legal tools for water, soil, forests, and wildlife protection are in place as a way of supporting development while protecting resources. Despite these efforts, the question lies in how to enforce these laws and policies adequately given the level of resource exploitation caused by growth in the economy and urbanization. The existing legislation on natural resource conservation aims at combating excessive utilization, rehabilitation of degraded habitats, and rational utilization. But they fail to achieve these goals because of poor monitoring and implementation tools, and the absence of systemic cooperation between local, regional, and central governments. There are attempts to use these resources more efficiently, but these are countered by poor political support or even lack of funds. The problem is making the challenge even bigger due to the ever-increasing need for natural resources because of population explosions and industrialization.



The title presented in the book is handled very well by the authors; the book covers all fields of China's environmental law. There are also a few weak points in this book; the inclusion of proper illustrations/landmark cases can increase the worth of the topic. It was also better to discuss some leading norms or international conventions i.e. UN conventions and legal framework in the starting chapters. The focus of the book was the domestic laws of China, however, the addition of some comparisons section of domestic laws in the international context, was a nice addition to the book, it also increased the readability and interest of readers.

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