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**The International Law of Pollution: Protecting the Global Environment in a World of Sovereign States, Allen L. Springer**

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THE INTERNATIONAL LAW OF POLLUTION:  
PROTECTING THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT IN A  
WORLD OF SOVEREIGN STATES

ALLEN L. SPRINGER

Westport, CT: Quorum Books. 1983. Pp. 218.

Allen Springer's *International Law of Pollution* is a balanced, contemporary review that is ideal as a supplemental text for law students and upper-class political science students. The usefulness of this book rests on Springer's thoroughly objective analysis of the concept of pollution. From that analysis, a student should gain much insight into the practicalities of implementing meaningful environmental policies.

*International Law of Pollution* discusses, as it develops its theoretical framework, a variety of examples such as the Trail Smelter arbitration and the ozone depletion controversy. These examples help develop a sense that technical solutions are rare and that the art of diplomacy is still the paragon for resolving international environmental problems. *International Law of Pollution* closes with a brief case study of the licensing procedure for the Eastport Oil Refinery, which involves a question of the passage to the United States of oil tankers through waters in which Canada has an interest. The case study appears to suggest that the political structure is too fractured to arrive at assuredly optimal solutions. Although this lesson is unfortunately appropriate, I believe that it belies the greater lesson that politics supports as well as hinders the development of new standards of international behavior.

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