# Contents

*Preface by Jonathan B. Wiener* . . . . . xi

*Contributors* . . . . . xiii

**Part I. Introduction**

1. The Rhetoric of Precaution . . . . . 3
   *Jonathan B. Wiener*

**Part II. Case Studies of Relative Precaution Regarding Specific Risks**

2. Genetically Modified Foods and Crops . . . . . 39
   *Mark Cantley and Maurice Lex*

3. Beef, Hormones, and Mad Cows . . . . . 65
   *George Gray, Michael D. Rogers, and Jonathan B. Wiener*

4. Tobacco . . . . . 91
   *D. Douglas Blanke*

5. Nuclear Power . . . . . 121
   *John F. Ahearne and Adolf Birkhofer*

6. Automobile Emissions . . . . . 142
   *Michael P. Walsh*

7. Stratospheric Ozone Depletion and Global Climate Change . . . . . 159
   *James K. Hammitt*

8. The Marine Environment . . . . . 177
   *David Freestone*

9. Biodiversity Conservation . . . . . 201
*Kathryn A. Saterson*

10. Chemicals . . . . . 223
*Ortwin Renn and E. Donald Elliott*

11. Medical Errors, New Drug Approval, and Patient Safety . . . . . 257
*Frances H. Miller*

12. Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction . . . . . 285
*Jessica Stern and Jonathan B. Wiener*

**Part III. Precaution in Risk Information Systems**

13. Information Disclosure . . . . . 323
*Peter H. Sand*

14. Frameworks for Risk Assessment, Uncertainty, and Precaution . . . . . 361
*Gail Charnley and Michael D. Rogers*

**Part IV. A Broader Empirical Test of Relative Precaution**

15. A Quantitative Comparison of Relative Precaution in the United States and Europe, 1970–2004 . . . . . 377
*Brendon Swedlow, Denise Kall, Zheng Zhou, James K. Hammitt, and Jonathan B. Wiener*

**Part V. Can We Explain the Observed Pattern of Precaution?**

16. Political Institutions and the Principle of Precaution . . . . . 411
*Giandomenico Majone*

17. Legal and Administrative Systems: Implications for Precautionary Regulation . . . . . 434
*Lucas Bergkamp and Turner T. Smith, Jr.*

18. Risk Perceptions and Risk Attitudes in the United States and Europe . . . . . 480
*Elke U. Weber and Jessica S. Ancker*

19. Precautions against What? Perceptions, Heuristics, and Culture . . . . . 492
*Cass R. Sunstein*

**Part VI. Conclusions**

20. The Real Pattern of Precaution . . . . . 519
*Jonathan B. Wiener*

*Acknowledgments* . . . . . 567

*Index* . . . . . 571