

Prologue

In 1963, one year after Rachel Carson published her last book, *Silent Spring*, which warned of the interdependence of industrial waste pollution and human development, I published my first textbook on the subject of industrial waste treatment, *Theories and Practices of Industrial Waste Treatment*. Most of my current readers were not actively participating in this field at that time. Therefore, I feel impelled to republish—in modified and somewhat updated form—the considerable amount of historical theories and practices of twentieth-century industrial waste treatment. It is remarkable how much of this technical information has remained the same since the publishing of that original book, but it is difficult to locate a book from that long ago. I followed that book with updated books on the subject—*Liquid Wastes of Industry* in 1971, *Industrial Water Pollution* in 1978, *Industrial and Hazardous Waste Treatment* with Dr. Dasgupta in 1991, *Zero Pollution* in 1995, and *Strategies of Industrial and Hazardous Waste Management* with Dr. Agardy in 1998. But they too (except for the last two) would be hard to locate in most libraries. In fact, many of the publishers themselves have changed or gone completely out of the business. For an updated and excellent version of current conventional industrial waste treatment equipment and practices (including costs), I urge you to consult another Elsevier text, *Industrial Waste Treatment Handbook*. It was prepared by the collective effort of the firm Woodard and Curran of Portland, Maine. Many of the figures in this book are replicated from the above titles with permission from John Wiley and Sons.

I have made a special effort in this book to reference publications that are still in print and available for purchase. In that way readers may opt to select works that serve their specific interests.

I intend for this book to be an overview of the subject of industrial waste treatment and disposal as used in the twentieth century and how it is evolving into a new conceptual field as we enter the twenty-first century. Further, I have attempted to provide some historical data of people and concepts of industrial waste treatment for generations to come to look back on for a more complete understanding of its significance in industrial production and how we naturally evolved the solutions to which we must resort in the twenty-first century.

It is critical to note that this book not only recounts the past theories and practices, but even more importantly, confronts the present dilemma with innovative solutions to industrial wastes for the future.

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