

bFashion Economics: FM 4339
Quiz #1: The Introduction
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Rosen, E. I. (2002). The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry: Making Sweatshops. University of California Press.

Please answer to the best of your knowledge the following essay question. Use detail where appropriate. Remember grammar, punctuation & spelling count.

a. How has history played a part in the globalization of textiles? Why is World War II significant in the history of textiles? (5pts)

History has played an immense role in the globalization of textiles because of the process of the apparel and market industry that aids different industries and countries with lower expenses. Globalization helped in creating larger markets and overtime increased the inability to utilize scopes And economic scales. Although it has its pros and cons, globalization of the apparel industry commenced the point of reason as to why the US obtained major world power. Rosen also mentions “The globalization of the apparel industry has indeed reduced the cost of clothing for consumers. The full-employment economy of the 1990s has been based on a strategy of low wages for American workers that makes lower cost apparel essential if the industry is to maintain and expand consumption.” (Rosen, 2002, P.9, Par.1).

World War II was significant in the history of textiles because the apparel industries grew stupendously due to the new tariffs and trading policy that assisted the United States in obtaining popularity for the U.S market to grow rapidly. Additionally, textiles have also played a vital role in economic, social and religious lives in many different countries. Furthermore, after World War II many textiles and apparel jobs were generated after a high demand for jobs. Rosen mentions that “ During this period a new trade regime was forged and imposed on the unwilling U.S. textile and apparel industries. Successive administrations committed to trade liberal- ization made it necessary for these trade-sensitive industries to restruc- ture—to change the way they organized their production and sales, to respond to a new, more wage-competitive environment.” (Rosen, 2002, P.7, Par.1).

b. Why was trade policy important to the United States and to Japan? (5pts)

The trade policy was important to the United States and Japan because it implemented the spread and prevention of communism in East Asian countries such as Japan. The trade policy has generally been solicited to stimulate U.S economic growth and competitiveness. Additionally, it was important for the US to form an alliance with Japan after WW2, to commence trade in textiles and apparel since Japan is known for these goods. Also Japan was no longer trading agricultural goods because it did not have a lot of farmland so it was important for them to maintain an alliance with the US to acquire these goods. Furthermore, As Rosen mentions “The U.S. military rebuilt Japan’s textile industry during the American occupation, between 1945 and 1951, in response to the goal of American foreign policy to contain communism in East Asia after the war.”(Rosen, 2002, P.10, Par.2).

c. What is Rosen’s definition of a sweatshop? Why were unions created? How did the incident at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City have an impact on unions? On women? (5pts)

As Rosen mentioned, the definition of a sweatshops are apparel industries that pay low and unfair wages and violate regulations of allowing people to work in environments that do not meet the requirements of the U.S Fair Labor Standards Act.

Unions were formed to protect the rights of workers so that they can receive fair wages and work in stable working conditions. As a result in 1911, The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City drew attention to legislation requiring improved factory safety standards. This disaster resulted in more than 141 deaths. One hundred and twenty-five of them were women and girls who unfortunately were burned to death. After this tragedy took place it supported the spur in the growth of the ILGWU. Who were women who fought for better working conditions for sweatshop workers.

The Incident at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City had a tremendous impact on the public because it showed them how women were treated poorly in the sweatshop factories. Particularly because the majority of sweatshop workers were immigrant teenage girls and middle-aged women. These women worked for excessively long hours, for unfair wages in unsanitary and unsafe working conditions that resulted in the fire. It was a critical incident in the U.S Labor Movement that sparked the development of occupational safety and health standards reorganization. As Rosen explains " Yet it was not until after the successful organizing drives of The 1930s, the New Deal, and the prosperity of the early postwar years that the power of the

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) was felt. Women sewing operatives, now often members of this union, received good wages, paid vacations, and medical benefits and, when work was slow, could collect unemployment insurance from the federal government." (Rosen, 2002, P.1, Par 2).

d. Name the Union established for Garment workers?

The Union established for Garment workers is called International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU).

e. How has the media played a part in unionization?

The media has contributed to unionization by offering information about sweatshops throughout the nation that violated laws and regulations as mentioned in the New York Times news. These sweatshops have poor working conditions, unreasonable hours, unfair wages, and no benefits for their workers. Without the exposure from the media, no one would ever know the dreadful conditions that people had to work through. Furthermore, this is why labor unions were formed to assist workers with work-related issues such as unsafe working conditions, long hours, and low pay situations.