

City Tech

BUF 4300-OL65

Professor Adomaitis

Quiz #1: The Introduction Dr. Adomaitis

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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)

The role that history has played in regards to the globalization of textiles can be identified when touching upon the process of the market and apparel industries that helps various countries and industries with lower expenses. Globalization has aided in the growth of much bigger markets as well as eventually limiting the ability to use economic scales and scopes. Even though it has upsides and downsides, globalization of the apparel industry is certainly one of the reasons why the United States has obtained significant world power. According to Rosen “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 certainly significant in the history of textiles because of the fact that there was a boom in the apparel industry due to the new trading policies and tariffs. These new policies and tariffs had helped the United States gain more popularity which in turn led to even more growth in the U.S. market. Furthermore, textiles had also contributed to many countries' social, economic and religious landscapes. Additionally, after the war had ended multiple apparel and textile jobs were created because the need for these jobs were extremely high. According to Rosen “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 committed to trade

liberalization which made it necessary for these trade-sensitive industries to restructure to change the way they organized production and sales.” (Rosen, 2002, P.7, Par.1).

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

Trade policy was important to the United States and Japan because its intention was to stop the spread of communism within eastern asian countries such as Japan. The trade policy was supposed to spark economic growth in the United States. It was also vital for the U.S. to try and form an alliance with the Japanese after World War II in order to begin trading apparel and textiles since Japan is well known for these types of goods. On Japan’s side it was important for them to form an alliance with the U.S. because they lacked agricultural goods due to the fact that they didn’t have a lot of farmland which the U.S did have a lot of. Furthermore, Rosen states that “ 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)

Rosen’s definition of a sweatshop was described as apparel industries that paid low and unfair wages as well as violated the regulations of allowing individuals to work in environments that don’t meet requirements of the U.S Fair Labor Standards Act.

Unions were created in order to protect the rights of workers so that they can obtain fair wages and also work in better working conditions.

The incident at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City had impacted unions because it sparked the growth of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which were women who had fought for better working conditions, specifically sweatshop workers. Additionally, according to Rosen " 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 theInternational 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?

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) is the name of the union established for Garment Workers

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

The media has played a part in unionization by providing information about sweatshops throughout the entire nation which had violated laws and regulations as mentioned in the news. These sweatshops had terrible working conditions, unreasonable wages and hours as well as little to zero benefits for the workers. If it weren't for the exposure from the media then no one would really know about these dreadful circumstances that these workers had to work in.