

Brandon Coreas
City Tech
Professor Munroe
BUF 2246 HD22
05-13-20

Final Exam Essay

_____The textile industry is one of the biggest industries in the world, for many years these synthetic textile processes have resulted in issues with environmental pollution. Many farms grow raw materials that are needed to produce fabrics include crops like cotton, flax, and even hemp. In order to protect these valuable crops, most farmers use a lot of pesticides and herbicides that always end up in the environment but overall the most pesticide-intensive crop being used is cotton. Now in terms of synthetic fabrics like nylon and polyester, they are made from petrochemicals and fossil fuels they also require a lot of water and energy to manufacture. Nylon manufacturing creates a lot of greenhouse gasses that harm the air we breathe. Also, synthetic fabrics are not biodegradable which means it takes centuries to decompose. There are also other activities such as bleaching, dyeing, and washing which produce agents like detergents that don't decompose which in turn means they end up in our water. Dyeing and printing also involve dangerous chemicals and substances such as arsenic, lead, and mercury. China is the largest textile producing and exporting country in the world. Just below China is India then it's the United States when it comes to producing and exporting textiles. Some sustainable fibers that you should opt for include hemp fibers, which are antibacterial, durable, and resilient, and work as a natural air-conditioning system. Additionally, it requires very little water and does not

require herbicides, pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, or GMO seeds. Another sustainable fiber is coffee ground fibers. Taiwanese textile company Singtex's technology combines the coffee ground with a polymer to create batches before they spin it into yarn. This coffee yarn can be used in a multitude of ways from outdoor and sports performance wear to household items used every day. The coffee grounds used to create the yarn are taken and recycled from some of the world's largest coffee vendors, like Starbucks and many others. This way the company makes use out of the leftover coffee grounds which would have otherwise ended up in the trash. When it comes to having a more eco-friendly fashion industry there are three contributors that can help make a change, the government, the manufacturers, and us the individual consumer. One way the government can contribute to a more eco-friendly fashion industry is by creating laws that prohibit producers from throwing away fabric and clothing but instead making them retailly available for those who are in need of it. The government can certainly become more involved when it comes to creating a more sustainable fashion industry in terms of setting specific guidelines and standards for companies that don't involve the emission of harmful chemicals, product waste, or terrible working conditions. Manufacturers can also contribute to the cause by opting for more eco-friendly processes when it comes to dyeing, printing, and finishing such as using natural dyeing processes that do not include the use of harmful chemicals. These manufacturers should also look to source more eco-friendly fibers as well as avoiding the use of any animal fur/ skin at all costs. Lastly, we the consumers can also help contribute to a more environmentally friendly fashion industry by instead of always resorting to fast-fashion retailers for your clothing, try going thrift shopping. Also instead of immediately throwing out your clothes once they go out of style or don't fit anymore try donating them to charitable

organizations or even send them to the thrift shop. We can also try learning how to sew to repair clothes if they get damaged or even finding a good tailor.

In summary, what I've learned in this class throughout the year is that fashion is much more than what we see when we step foot in a store or look in our closet. There's a whole foundation and process that is set in order when it comes to producing the clothes and materials that are needed in our everyday lives. Although on the surface it may seem like the future of fashion and apparel as we know it can only get better we as individuals need to take a deeper look at the negative impact it has on our environment. The fashion industry is the second-largest polluter in the world and without proper action and thoughts about the future we are only setting ourselves up for disaster. We as a collective have to think about the long term detrimental effects of the current practices of the fashion industry. It is our job to pave the way for our children and our children's children to be able to live in a society where sustainability is the norm, not a dream.





Figure 1: Sintex company

<https://thefashionlobe.com/sintex-clothing>

Figure 2:

<https://moneycrashers.com/sustainable>

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