

Fashion Economics: FM 4339
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)

Globalization of textiles started when the United States became the major world power after winning World War II. After the war, trade liberalization occurred in two stages. “The first phase unfolded in Asia, in the quarter century or so after the war, as part of a larger strategy to contain communism and link the developing new economies of the region to the United States through export-led development...” (Rosen, p.7). In short, the United States was trying to expand the textile industry all over the world and pushing Communism away from the countries that were willing to work with the US.

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

Trade policy was important to the United States and to Japan because of “the emergence of the early postwar reciprocal-trade regime in textiles and apparel, as it was first developed between the United States, Japan, and the Big Three—Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea” (Rosen, p.10). Between 1945 and 1951, the United States military rebuilt Japan's textile industry; this was done because of the American foreign policy to contain communism in East Asia after the war. The United States' ongoing attempt to suppress left-wing uprisings in the region contributed to the globalization of the apparel industry in the decades that followed.

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- 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 is "a firm that offers poorly paid jobs or an authoritarian system of industrial relations. The wages such companies pay are below the federally mandated minimum, or the conditions of employment they provide are substandard in terms of the criteria first set in 1938 by the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act" (Rosen, p.2).

-Unions were created so that members received good wages, paid vacations, medical benefits and, when work was slow, could collect unemployment insurance from the federal government (Rosen, p.1).

-The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire sparked widespread support for the passage or enforcement of legislation to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. 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 (Rosen, p.1).

- d. Name the Union established for Garment workers?

The name of the Union established for garment workers was called the International Ladies' Garment Worker's Union (ILGWU)

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

The media has played a major part in unionization because they are always reporting on stuff that large companies do not want you to know. If it was not for the media, a lot of companies would be getting away with crimes and the horrible working/pay conditions would go unnoticed. They expose the average person to what is going on behind the scenes and with that comes change. Movements for unions begin to rise and the media is the driving force behind them.

References

Rosen, E.I. (2002). *The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry: Making Sweatshops*. University of California Press