

Fashion Economics: FM 4339
Quiz #3: 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. Why did the United States assist Japan in rebuilding their country after WWII in 1945? What was the role of the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces (SCAP) in Japanese reconstruction? (2pts).

After the war was over, Japanese reconstruction was carried out directly under the command of the American military. The occupation's purpose was to "permit the United States to oversee the restructuring of Japan's political system, the democratization of its civil society, and its industrial reconstruction" (Rosen, 2002, p. 27, par. 1). The role of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers was to "organize the population and materials in order to revitalize the country's industrial production and find markets for the new manufactured goods" (Rosen, 2002, p. 27, par. 2). The United States knew the damage they had caused the people of Japan, and this was their way of helping them get back on their feet and not look towards communism.

- b. How did Japan become an exporter of cotton textiles? Why was there a conflict about textiles production in Japan? Defend your answer with citations from the book. (2 pts).

Japan became an exporter of cotton textiles out of pure necessity when all their other textiles were plummeting. Silk was the most popular textile export from Japan before the war, but after the war, nylon began to take its position in the production of women's hosiery (Rosen, 2002, p. 29, par. 2). It was pointless to try to make silk and resurrecting the rayon textile industry was also unsuccessful due to the exorbitant cost, thus cotton textiles appeared to be the best option (Rosen, 2002, p. 29, par. 2). There was a conflict about textiles production in Japan because of the difficulty of acquiring additional raw cotton supply (Rosen, 2002, p. 30, par. 1).

- c. What did communism have to do with U.S. trade policy with Japan? China? (2pts)

The second red scare during the late 1940s and 1950s had the United States worried that communism was taking over the world. The United States “lost” China when Mao Zedong defeated the Nationalist government, which prompted the U.S. to help in the reconstruction of the Japanese textile industry so that it could “contain communism and promote the political and economic ties that would link Japan to the Western democracies” (Rosen, 2002, p. 37, par. 1). Many countries, such as China, were falling into communism and the United States dealt with that by placing embargos on them (Rosen, 2002, p. 37, par. 0). The domino theory was the worst-case scenario for the United States and that was their way of dealing with it.

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- d. Give two (2) reasons why the US had difficulty with finding trading partners for Japan’s textile exports?

After the war was over, Japan was helped by the United States with their textile industry, but the United States had difficulty with finding trading partners for them. This was because many of the “Southeast Asian countries had been Japanese colonies before the war and had suffered economic and political exploitation that had enriched Japan at their expense” (Rosen, 2002, p. 30, par. 2). The wounds of World War II were still fresh in their mind and many of the Asian countries wanted nothing to do with Japan. Another reason why it was so hard to find a trading partner was because “only countries with dollars—the United States and those strategically important to U.S. policy objectives—could buy Japanese textiles” (Rosen, 2002, p. 36, par. 1) and some countries were simply unable to do so due to financial constraints.

- e. What were Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan’s role in textile trade in the East?

Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan all played important roles in the East's textile trade, which was possible because of the “large amounts of U.S. foreign aid, and an embargo against trade with China, a successful strategy against communist aggression” (Rosen, 2002, p. 46, par. 1). They oversaw textile development, and clothing could be made in Hong Kong, South Korea, or Taiwan for a fraction of the labor costs that heavily unionized shops in the United States demanded (Rosen, 2002, p. 50, par. 0). All of this led to significant economic growth in the region which dubbed them the “Asian Miracles”.

References

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