

Quiz #10 The US Textile Industry

Chapter (11 & 12) Dr. Adomaitis

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a. Throughout *Making Sweatshops*, Rosen discusses the development and progression of US textile mills, manufacturing, along with retail. What is the significance of each of these: (1) textile mills, (2) the manufacturer, and (3) the retailer as part of the retailing pipeline? Choose a textile mill, manufacturer, or retailer and discuss how it has led to the reader's understanding of what a "Sweatshop" is today. Defend your answer with a citation from the book along with another credible author on this topic. (2pts)

Making Sweatshops discusses how the retailing pipeline is connected with history in the way that the textile industry was first chosen to rebuild Japan's economy after the war. Also as the world economy became more globalized textile mills expanded from the US to overseas, helping to create jobs and move economies but also making the sweatshop condition a world problem. With the threat of communism during the Cold War, free trade agreements were used to increase the level of capitalism and dependency of other countries on the U.S. Currently, the retailing pipeline includes textile mills and manufacturers that are mostly found overseas in developing countries with some sweatshops still hidden in the US producing goods for retailers based in the US and Europe.

The Lowell model exemplifies the sweatshop model "In the 1830s, American-born farm girls were recruited to work in the new textile mills of Lowell and Lawrence, Massachusetts" (Rosen, 2002, p.240, par.1) these women lived in dorms and worked 73 hours each week with only 30 min break for breakfast and dinner. That are the sweatshop conditions that people endure in China these days.

Wages is federally set by each country

b. Rosen discusses "Free Trade," the end of quotas and tariff reductions. As noted several times in the book, trade policy for apparel has often been lead by political agendas. State (cite) a time in history when trade policy was in fact, affected by a country's political agenda. How would trade change if negotiations were made to have US apparel made in sub-Saharan Africa. Give examples of issues that effect sub-Saharan Africa from the Diana Sawyer Interview. (2pts)

Trade between the US and Cuba was affected due to the country's Communistic political Agenda which made the US impose an embargo on Cuba, right after JFK purchased his stock of cigars. In that situation free trade if not practiced, is also happening currently between the US and Russia as Russia decided to invade Ukraine, to avoid a third world war, the US imposes trade restrictions.

US trade with sub-Saharan Africa is deeply affected by poverty, corruption, AIDS, and the lack of infrastructure, making it hard for the TDA(Trade Development Agreement) to promote trade

within the sub-Saharan Africa. The Diana Sawyer interview with Rawlings mentioned the importance of foreigner aid for Africa basics and if the country denied the aid, trade between countries would be shut down.

c. Why is China considered a major player in apparel production? How does artificially devaluing and inflating the Yuan help China? Give two examples, one where devaluing the Yuan and one where inflating the Yuan has created an advantage for China and has hurt the export/import country. Use a citation from Rosen along with a credible outside source to defend your answer. (2pts)

China is considered a major player because they invest in technology “China would triple the existing levels of the U.S imports of Chinese textiles and apparel with the entry into WTO in 2005” (Rosen, 2002, p. 210, par.1), China has been a major trading partner of the US since the 1980s.

Devaluing the Yuan is China’s strategy to remain competitive “by devaluing its currency, the Chinese government has been able to amass large foreign exchange reserves and, at the same time, to promote its exports and discourage imports” (Rosen, 2002, p.211, par.1). Inflating the yuan would enable people more assets to be held in yuan, “A stronger yuan is a key goal for policymakers trying to wean the economy off a heavy emphasis on exports more towards consumption-led growth”(CNBC, 2013), another thing that happens when you artificially inflate a currency is that export figures are also inflated artificially creating an inaccurately high basis for comparison.

Motif to enter the international monetary fund

d. Women have been part of the apparel work force throughout its development that has transitioned into a global entity. Give two (2) examples in history when women’s wages were not of equal value to those work wages of another industry or her male counterpart. Please cite each reference. Describe how the Lowell Model has shed light on the difficulties of being a woman in a low-wage industry. (2pts)

“According to [Bureau of Labor Statistics data](#), in 2020, women’s annual earnings were 82.3% of men’s, and the gap is even wider for many women of color” (Jones, 2021) as a second example this applies to Hollywood as well where female actors earn 45% less than man (Pedace, 2021) sometimes the actors even have the same agent, actress Michele Williams felt paralyzed after she learned Mark Wahlberg making 1.5 million dollars more than Michelle for the reshoots of All the Money in the World, same happened to Charlize Theron that received 10 million more after the Sony email leak that revealed the salary gap with her co-star Chris Hemsworth for the Huntsman.

The Lowell model exposes how in sweatshops it’s still the 1800s, at that time the conditions were already unacceptable that’s why instead of immigrants, they picked farm girls who dreamed of a better life, people in vulnerable conditions are always the target. Lowell women workers eventually stood up and protested for better work conditions.

e. Discuss how the events of September 11, 2001 have effected international sourcing of apparel. Give at least two (2) examples. How has terrorism effected consumer consumption along with the US economy? (2pts).

Countries that are home to terrorist organizations, don't have a stable environment where you can rely on timetables that are needed to run a business smoothly, and orders might get delayed. Retailers prefer to work with countries that are more reliable.

7/11 also caused financial loss as consumption was reduced in the following months after the attack. Resulting in job loss in Mexico and other manufacturing countries, 200.000 jobs were lost in Mexico *Maquilladoras*, and 68.500 in Pakistan (Rosen, 2002, p.248, par.1), an example of the effect of the terrorist attacks on the garment industry and the economy in general.

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