

Fashion Economics: FM 4339
Quiz #1: 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. How has history played a part in the globalization of textiles? Why is World War II significant in the history of textiles? (5pts)

As the a winner of the WWII, the United States found a way to maintain it's status as a leading nation. The free market policy was a way the US found to contain the raging Communism after the WW2. Tarrifs were reduced and markets were opened for mutual trade. It was the beginning of globalization were major cooperations have to present high earnings which is possible through cutting costs by producing overseas or in local sweatshops where many pay the actual price of the system with long hours of work and few rights. Garment production is a market that relies heavily on labor and also was found to be highly profitable in the short term.

Page answer citation Page 6 and 7 ww2 rebuilding japan, using clothes as an non aggressive form to rebuild japan

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

Japan lost the WW2, after the war, between 1945 and 1951, US rebuild the local industry and new trade policies made it easy for Americans to buy products from Japan. Japan became super developed and rich after the trade policy. US did that in order to promote the Capitalism and avoid the Communism to spread as it was already in Vietnam, China, Latin Countries and etc. In consequence the textile industry was transformed and the deveopment of the trade regions became known as the "Asian Miracle", that included Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. Which now are the considered First World developed countries.

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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 defines sweatshops as "not merely a firm that offers poorly paid jobs"(Rosen, 2002) but as employers who violate the federal labor laws by paying below the minimum wages while not offering decent work conditions and other labor rights. Rosen also defines sweatshops as "low-wage, female dominated production sites"(Rosen, 2002), as the Triange Shirtwaist Factory in 1911 where over a 100 women died while they worked underpaid and in unsafe conditions. The incident helped to set regulations and unions, being able to benefit from medical and unemployment benefits, paid vacation and good wages; for 40 years that seemed to have worked until WW2 and globalization happened, and the widespread use of workshop for low-cost garmet production came back to life at full power.

Answer cite Page 1

d. Name the Union established for Garment workers?

The Union established in the 1930's is called the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

Answer cite Page 1

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

The media has uncovered and exposed the terrible work conditions behind the beautiful garments and made sure to inform that the customers buying the garments were supporting it.

Answer Ny times uncovered the story