

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)

The globalization of the apparel industry in America can be processed in a historical context. A trade protection policy was accepted in the United States during the nineteenth and early twentieth century which supported the growth of industrial America. “The transition to a free trade agenda had its roots in the early 1930’s but was not put in place until after World War II (Rosen, 2002, Pg. 13, Par. 1). The policy of trade liberalization like the reduction of tariffs and trade and investment markets opening began in no-nonsense. The free trade agenda in America has played an important role in the up keep of the United States political power internationally.

The General Agreement on Tariff and Trade established commerce globally from 1947 to 1994 to prevent war that trade projection has created. “What was then called reciprocal trade was designed to mobilize nation-states to regulate their international trade through negotiation and international cooperation” (Rosen, 2002, Pg.14, Par. 2). Domestic savings lead to a large expansion of America postwar demand, growing and productivity of American agriculture and essentials from investments abroad.

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

The United States encouraged Asian countries to sell cheaper materials like cotton to Japan. Many countries in Southeast Asia were Japanese colonies pre-World War II and were exploited politically and economically. “These countries had been forced into trade relationships that made them exporters of raw materials and importers of high-cost Japanese manufactured goods” (Rosen 2002, Pg. 30, Par. 2). Cotton in its raw state came from the United States but Japan didn’t have the dollar to pay for imports necessary for the country’s textile reconstruction. For the United States and Japan textiles was essential for keeping up with balanced payments.

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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)

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire called attention to sweatshop working conditions; these women were stitching clothing. A sweatshop is a workplace environment where employers who lack concern for the lives of their workers, who allow these conditions to continue despite the suffering and human life being jeopardized. “A sweatshop has poorly paid jobs or authoritarian system of industrial relations” (Rosen, 2002, Pg. 1, Par. 1). The wages paid by the companies are way below the minimum mandated by the government.

Unions were created to protect workers from the harsh conditions that could occur working in factories. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire led to reform. It wasn't until after organizing successful drives that in the 1930's the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union was felt and taken seriously. Women then began receiving good wages, paid vacations and benefits. They could also collect unemployment insurance when business was slow.

d. Name the Union established for Garment workers?

In the heart of New York City, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire caused major change. Unfortunately, that wasn't the turning point of it all, it took a successful organized drive during the 1930's. The New Deal was the prosperity of the postwar years. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was established after the Triangle Shirtwaist fire in New York City in 1911 (Rosen, 2002, Pg. 1, Par. 1). These women who were operating the sewing machine often became members of the union and began to receive good wages amongst other things.

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

Sweatshops received a lot of media attention. "The exposure of such egregious conditions generated public shock and dismay" (Rosen, 2002, Pg. 3, Par. 1). There was an article written in the New York Times about apparel sweatshops written by two women who worked for the Department of Labor. The newspaper documents the severity of the labor abuse going on in factories across the country. Statewide regulations prohibited sweatshop conditions in all countries.

