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Contemporary Issues in Fashion

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Sweatshop Analysis

Sweatshop was first used in the late 19th century to describe aspects of the tailoring trade, but sweatshop conditions exist in other industries as well. The forces that promote sweatshop production have always been varied. Some shops are the result of greed and opportunism; others stem from competitive pressures. The concept of *fair trade* arose in the mid-twentieth century as a means of providing farmers and farm workers around the world with employment benefits similar to those found in developed nations. At its broadest level, fair trade can be seen as an initiative of the developed world to reward principled production in the developing world. More specifically, fair trade operates primarily as a certification system under which qualified producers are guaranteed a minimum price for their production. This price guarantee is intended to augment and stabilize the revenues of producers in developing countries, so that they can invest in social welfare infrastructure and environmentally friendly farming methods.

I believe that retailers should be blamed for the factory disasters because they are the most powerful compared to the manufacturers. The manufacturers are just doing their work and hoping to get paid fairly, if there's any major issues with the factories the manufacturers complain to the retailers since the retailers are the ones with the money therefore it is their responsibility to fix any issue with the factories. And also check the workplace to make sure their workers are safe and working in a clean environment. Even Though some people might

argue that manufacturers should be held responsible for the disasters of factories because they imposed their own lives at risk working at factories that are not safe and that will one day collapse on them. Others will also argue that if the manufacturers knew the working conditions were bad and wanted it to be fixed they could've gone on strikes so that the retailers would take actions and fix the factories. These are all true arguments, however many of these manufacturers were immigrants therefore they didn't have many choices and they were desperately in need of jobs to provide for their families."The waves of immigrants who poured into American cities desperately needed work. Like the seamstresses they began to replace, these recent immigrants were often vulnerable to exploitation themselves". This is to show that these workers desperately needed a job that they didn't care about their working condition or their unfair wages. They just wanted to hold a job and take care of their families. I believe worker rights should follow the labor laws of the apparel company's country because I believe the company's country labor right will protect the workers better than the factory's location labor right because they will try to cheat on the workers and take advantage of them by overpaying working them and under paying them in terrible working conditions.

I strongly believe that corporations should be held fully responsible for worker treatment and wages because they are the head of companies and whatever law they make that is what the workers will follow and respect they have the right to increase or decrease workers wages, however they decided to neglect and be selfish of workers complaints. For example the tragic history that happened in Bangladesh and many other countries a long time ago in the 1800's is still happening today. "News reports soon emerged that the factory owners had ignored ominous warning signs, such as visible cracks in the wall, and had illegally added several stories to the top

of the building, creating a weight the building could not bear. Many of the factories operating in the building were producing apparel for well-known Western brands, such as Walmart, Joe Fresh, and Mango”.

In conclusion I have come to realize and understand that sweatshop factories workers were treated unfairly, working long hours, under pay and working in poor conditions. It is insane how factories have been collapsing on workers since the 1800's and when the factory collapsed in Bangladesh in 2013 I remembered that moment it was tragic and to think until this day much has changed it is disappointing.

Citation

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