

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.***

- a. How has history played a part in the globalization of textiles? Why is World War II significant in the history of textiles? (5pts)**

A network of historical developments worldwide, mainly colonization, industrialization, and technological advancements, led to the globalization of textiles. Throughout history, textiles have consistently been one of the most sought-after goods contributing to cultural exchange and economic development. During WWII, textiles became the power force in the industry as new specialized fabrics, with rationing materials that would guarantee more durable resistance, were in very high demand to create military uniforms that would help, protect, and shield the warriors. After the war, the apparel industry was recognized for its aggressive union bargaining and labor-management cooperation, as women in the sector earned relatively good wages and working conditions (Rosen, pg 4).

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

The trade policy was essential to the United States and Japan because the U.S. military rebuilt Japan's textile industry during the U.S. occupation of Japan. This restoration helped the U.S. achieve its foreign policy goals to contain communism in East Asia after WWII. The textile industry allowed for a consistent flow of profit and supply between East Asia and the U.S. This allowed exposure to global markets and facilitated the exchange of ideas and technology. The variety of competition has improved product quality and lower cost (Rosen, pg 10).

- 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's definition of a sweatshop is an authoritarian system of industrial relations that presents human rights issues in labor and the government's active dismissal of these atrocities (Rosen, pg 2). Sweatshops, which emphasize the blend of industrial and economic developments in all countries, reflect economic justice in their country. Unions were created to protect employee rights and stop exploitation in all work environments. Unions created a safe space for workers who experience work-related difficulties such as low pay, unsafe or unsanitary working conditions, long hours, and other issues. The incident at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in NYC impacted the unions by raising strong

awareness of the need for improved factory safety standards. It helped unions solidify the need for their advocacy. The incident also led to the start of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), which fought for better working conditions for sweatshop workers. The ILGWU helped women who were sewing operatives join the union, helping them obtain better wages, paid vacations, and medical benefits (Rosen, pg 13).

d. Name the Union established for Garment workers?

The union established for garment workers was the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), giving more protection and safety to factory workers. It became the largest labor union in the United States, as it first began to help provide employee rights for all workers in the ladies' garment industry rather than separating women by skill set or job (Rosen, pg 13). After the war, most U.S. apparel producers, such as small businesses and the ILGWU, partnered, focusing geographically on NY, NJ, and Pennsylvania as they compromised thousands of small businesses and private firms (often family-owned). The members and their allies pushed for new laws to protect organized labor by reshaping society to support the working class better. The clothing manufacturers recognized the union, and a board of arbitration was established to handle labor-management disputes.

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

The media played a massive part in unionizing and legislating new laws worldwide by impacting public opinion. There is also positive coverage of workers' grievances and the reasons for their actions, gaining the support of more union workers during the strikes and protests. It highlighted the unions' roles as advocating for workers' rights and improving working conditions versus negative coverage of strikes and crime. To many families, the media often shaped the public image of union leaders and members. It has been a platform for unions to humanize workers and their struggles, emphasizing their dedication to fair treatment. Although many areas of the media influence workers' behaviors, it also shares information about other trades and possible changes to the women in the workforce. The national policies and reformation of international trade support women in the apparel industry, making it possible for them to find work at wages that will support their families in conditions that support their dignity as human beings (Rosen, pg 4).