

**Fashion Economics: FM 4339**  
**Quiz #1: The Introduction**  
**Dr. Adomaitis**

**(Rhonda Duncan)**

**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.

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

History played a part in the globalization of textiles “According to the International Labour Organization, during the late 1990’s there were approximately 30 million jobs in the global textile, clothing, and footwear industries Rosen, E. I. (2002).” Globalization of textiles and apparel industries address the problem of people affected by it. The New York City Triangle Shirtwaist factory shed light on multiple issues. Such as low wages, unsafe work conditions and economic development in both poor countries as a result raised concerns for social and economic justice. “Also touches on important debates about the integration of the world economy Rosen, E. I. (2002).” As a result, globalization of the textile industry has raised challenges related to labor standards. While it has brought about economic opportunities it has raised important challenges related to labor laws.

World War II was significant in the history of textiles during the war, many resources, such as materials, were redirected toward military needs. “Continuing efforts by the United States to liberalize trade have been an important vehicle for corporate expansion and have helped to shade the world's industrial development during the past fifty years Rosen, E. I. (2002).” WWII trade and expansion refers to the reduction or elimination of barriers to trade such as tariffs or quotas. World War II had an impact on labor and working conditions in the sweatshop. During this period in the United States, it experienced a surge in industrial production, to support war efforts.

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

Trade policy is important to the United States and to Japan, the United States has gained economic growth because of trade protection. “After the war, a continuous process of tariff reductions and market openings strengthened the economy post-war and its new international prominence Rosen, E. I. (2002).” The post-war economic recovery. Japan's efforts led to increased trade opportunities. Shift its focus to export- oriented industrialization that allows access to international markets. “The U.S military rebuilt Japan’s textile industry during the American occupation, between 1945 and 1951, in response to the goal of American foreign policy to contain communism in east Asia after the war Rosen, E. I. (2002).” This approach gained stability by rebuilding Japan’s economy in the textile industry, as a result restore infrastructure. United States and Japan efforts helped stabilize the economy, and reforms labor laws to improve the rules and regulation and agreements that govern its trade policy.

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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)

“A “sweatshop” as understood here, is not merely a firm that offers poorly paid jobs or an authoritarian system of industrial relations Rosen, E. I. (2002).” Rosen’s definition of the sweatshop referred to a workplace that violates labor standards. Offering low wages below the legally mandated minimum and unsafe work conditions. Employers who provide such jobs violated federal laws. If employers are found to be in violation of federal laws, may face legal consequences, including fines, and civil lawsuits.

“Yet it was not until after the successful organizing drives of the 1930s, the New Deal, and the prosperity of the early postwar years that the power of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union (ILGWU) was felt. Rosen, E. I. (2002).” The union was created after the New York City Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire. Unions advocate for and protect the rights and interest of workers. The fire and aftermath galvanized women to become active participants in the labor movement. Many of these women became leaders in advocating for workers' rights.

Unions acted to the unsafe work conditions women endured, under the new union it provided “good wages, paid vacations, and medical benefits Rosen, E. I. (2002).” The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire brought attention to the exploitation of workers and workplace safe violations. (ILGWU) Union addressed power imbalances between workers and employers that ensure fair treatment and benefits in the workplace. “One hundred forty-one workers, 125 of them women and girls Rosen, E. I. (2002).” Many of the workers affected by the Triangle Shirtwaist factory exposed issues of social justice, workers’ rights, and women's rights.

4. Name the Union established for Garment workers?

The name of the Union established for Garment workers is “International Ladies ‘Garment Workers’ Union (ILGWU) Rosen, E. I. (2002).” Paragraph 3 (ILGWU) existed for garment workers, it helped specific parts of the labor movement such as paid vacation, good wages, medical benefits. During slow periods of work, workers were allowed to collect unemployment insurance from the federal government. (ILGWU) Union experienced growth in membership, in its efforts to improve labor standards and workers’ rights. The advocacy of the union benefited women in the Sweatshop, women were paid reasonable and equitable compensation for their labor.

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

“After Kathie Lee Gifford identified herself as lending the name U.s retailer and Central American sweatshop, California states raided an undercover factory in El Monte, California, a middle-class suburb of Los Angeles Rosen, E. I. (2002).” The growing number of sweatshops proved that the law was not being enforced. These practices raised ethical and humanitarian concerns about the treatment of workers. Asian traffickers were held by force, seventy Thai workers had been smuggled into the U.S and kept captive in the basement of a house. “The Thai workers, mostly impoverished women in their late teens or early twenties, were forced to sew clothing for about \$1.60 an hour 7AM to midnight each day Rosen, E. I. (2002).” This gained exposure to the public, Thai workers were being forced under such conditions as a result raised human rights concern. The New York Times had published a broadside article on appeal sweatshops that was written by two women administrators from the United States Department of Labor.

### **References**

Rosen, E. I. (2002). *The Globalization of the U. S. Apparel Industry: Making Sweatshops*. University of California Press; Los Angeles, CA.