

Fashion Economics: FM 4339
Quiz #2: 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. Do past international theories of explaining international trade (classic theorists) facilitate an understanding of trade policies today? If yes, then why? If no, then why not? (2pts).

One believes international theories of explaining international trade, the neoclassical free trade paradigm, aristocratic mercantilism thinkers like Adam Smith and David Ricardo. Both Smith & Ricardo theories provided insight on complex networks of international trade, finance and global investment (Rosen, 2002, p.18, par 2). These policies help trade makers benefit from trade liberalization. Theories such as Heckscher-Ohlin model, build ideas like labor and capital over different countries. Yes, international trade theories aim to design strategies that impact trade policy. Trade theories have important policy for trade issues. An example of the theory of comparative advantage suggests that countries should produce goods and services, as a result gains efficiency in production.

2. What is GATT? Explain in your own words. How has or would it ensure world peace? Has it worked? (2 pts).

GATT, or the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Rosen, 2002, p.14, par. 2), was created from 1947 to 1994 as an international treaty trade that reduces tariffs and other barriers. GATT worked as a multilateral negotiation that was based on equal treatment amongst all nations. Under this principle, any trade advantage granted to one nation should be extended to all. This helped promote fairness and nondiscrimination in international trade. One believes, by exporting goods and products could build interdependence and economic interests.

3. Rosen explains on page 20 paragraph (1) and on page 22 paragraph (1) that global trade does not always enrich developing countries but rather leaves them impoverished. Is this true? Is global trade beneficial to developing countries? Defend your answer. (2 pts).

One believes global trade does enrich developing countries but leaves them impoverished. Rosen argues that these challenges allow companies to invest globally utilizing low-wage labor in developing countries. This type of trade has faced criticism by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (Rosen, 2002, p.20, par. 2), Neoliberal trade policy makes flawed analysts criticized for basing on two flawed assumptions. One, that capital is localized, and two the exchange of textile and apparel products amongst countries will result in equal value for all trading partners.

Global trade is beneficial for developing countries such as Mexico. According to (Paul Krugman, p.20, par. 3), a country has a comparative advantage in producing goods if the opportunity cost is lower. Such as, producing apparel in Mexico is less costly, it is economically more efficient for U.S producers to let handle Mexico apparel production. This allows capital used for apparel manufacturing in the United States to be more efficient. Low wage in Mexico brought (NAFTA), increased access to the large consumer market of the United States. The expansion of the textile and apparel industry in Mexico led to a global supply chain of products and investment in jobs (Rosen, 2002, p.22, par. 3).

Rosen, E. I. (2002). The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry: Making Sweatshops. University of California Press. (cont.)

4. Historically, why is the apparel industry considered a “woman’s field”? Is this conception of being a “woman’s field of labor” true today? How does Rosen describe women as they are thought of in the apparel industry? Is this a fair classification of women? (2 pts)

The apparel industry is considered a women’s field, women were responsible for weaving, sewing, and spinning which formed the foundation of the apparel industry (Rosen, 2002, p.23, par 3). Women were often paid lower wages than men, making them more appealing to employers seeking cost-effective labor for garment manufacturing. Industrialization played a significant role in the sexual division of labor, specifically in the production of cloth and clothing. As women started working for wages outside the home, the textile industry appeared as one of the earliest industries to employ women, both in Europe and America. Men possess stereotypical characteristics such as being superior, technical expertise, and aptitude. These qualities are considered inherent to men and not equally attributed to women.

One believes being a “woman’s field of labor” currently, certain industries and professions are predominantly women. Nursing, teaching, social work, and administrative roles. These professions may be seen as “feminine” or aligned with caregiving roles, which women are more likely to gravitate towards. Despite efforts to promote gender diversity and inclusion. Women continue to face barriers such as unconscious biases, limited access to networking opportunities, or workplace cultures that may not be supportive of their advancement. The idea of the male being family head and the primary breadwinner (Rosen, 2002, p.24, par.3). Continues to support men’s demands that excludes women from receiving high jobs in profitable industries like steel and auto assembly.

According to Rosen, describe women in the apparel industry as in their biological, anatomical, and psychological “nature” (Rosen, 2002, p.24, par.2). Women were perceived to have smaller hands and lower intelligence as result makes them not qualified for mastering more complex industrial work skills. In the 1980’s it was brought to attention by British feminist sociologists. Highlighting how men excluded women from skilled training and better paying industrial jobs. To maintain control over the labor process, many of the low paying jobs that were relegated to women, sewing specifically. Women were socially devalued and poorly paid because the job was done by a woman.

This is not a fair classification for women, the stereotype of it being in a woman's “nature”. Overlooks the diverse capabilities and opportunities for women. It disregards the barriers women face, receiving jobs and high paying industrial jobs. Fair classification should be based on skills, rather than social norms such that men are superior. Both young women and unmarried women are targeted as first picks in the labor force. The term “neoliberal trade policy” emphasizes free market, capitalism, and reduced government in trade practices and unequal gender roles. As a result, this is not an unfair classification towards women and undermines efforts for gender equality in the industry (Rosen, 2002, p.20, par. 1).

5. What is significant about export zoning? Defend your answer. (2 pts).

Significant export-processing zoning, (EPZs) established to attract foreign investment and promote economic development (Rosen, 2002, p.25, par 4). (EPZs) play a part in global trade by producing goods for export to industrialized countries. According to EPZ’s are a huge generator of employment, however 90 percent of workers are women. The target workforce are mostly young and unmarried women. Despite the advantages of export zoning, such as labor exploitation and economic inequalities. EPZ has offered developing countries to gain industrial skills and resources for global opportunities.

Paragraph 26 1 & 2

Reference

Rosen, E. I. (2002). *Making sweatshops: The Globalization of the U.S. apparel industry*. University of California Press.