

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

____Sandra Nicolas_____ (name)

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 details 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)

History has played a major role in the globalization of textiles with the evolution of global trade networks and industrialization. Before globalization, textile production was made in the U.S. production was not at a high quantity level, often in small places like cottages and workshops. “The globalization of the apparel industry has reduced the cost of clothing for consumers (Rosen 20).” The advancements of new technology brought into the production process of the apparel industry and U.S. trade policies after WWII shifted to a global scale. WWII's significance in the history of textiles is rooted in the fashion industry. The war disrupted the trade routes because countries were producing all products in-house as part of war efforts. Another significance is that “during the period a new trade regime was forged and imposed which caused the industry to restructure the way they organized their production and sales (Rosen 19).” However, these shifts did create a foundation for the textile industry as nations rebuilt their economy after the war.

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

The trade policy is important to the United States and Japan for several reasons. like economic interests, the production, and trade of clothing goods. Competitive advantages, the United States keeps a favorable trade environment and Japan leads in technology to compete in the global market. Labor regulatory considerations both the United States and Japan have domestic regulations regarding labor rights. And geopolitical relations, the United States and Japan engage in trade negotiations and agreements that influence regional and global trade networks.

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)

Throughout the introduction of *The Globalization of the U.S Apparel Industry: Making Sweatshops*, Rosen describes its practices and conditions. "A "sweatshop" is not merely a firm that offers poorly paid jobs or an authoritarian system (Rosen 14)." Rosen defines a sweatshop as a workplace characterized by low wages, long hours, unsafe working conditions, and often, exploitation of workers. The tragic fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City in 1911 had an impact on the labor movement. The tragic fire at the factory resulted in the deaths of 146 workers, mostly young immigrant women. This event brought widespread attention to the unsafe and exploitative working conditions in sweatshops, there was a public outrage to improve workplace safety regulations and labor rights. Unions were created in response to the harsh conditions faced by workers in sweatshops, aiming to advocate for better wages, working hours, and safety standards.

d. Name the Union established for Garment workers.

The union established for garment workers is the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). This was established after a major event, the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire led to the reform and the success of workers' rights which were mainly women workers. Because of the ILGWU members received good wages, paid vacations, medical benefits, and unemployment when it was a slow season.

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

The media has always been a tool used to spread information in a vast volume. It has played a significant role in raising awareness about labor issues and exposing the behind-the-scenes of the workplace. The media is used as a way for people to connect and create a community with a common goal. Organizers and activists use media platforms as a way to communicate their message, experiences and gain support for collective bargaining and labor rights.