

Quiz #1: The Introduction
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Rosen, E. I. (2002). The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry: Making Sweatshops. The 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.

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 an essential role in the globalization of textiles by helping us examine the complex political, social, and economic events that have transformed the apparel industry. (Rosen, 2002, p. 6, par 1) History is a link with the globalization of textiles, the process of it has allowed us to view the apparel industry and the increase in economic sales along with employment. Rosen states, “The globalization of the apparel industry has indeed reduced the cost of clothing for consumers. The full-employment economy of the 1990s has been based on a strategy of low wages for American workers that makes lower cost apparel essential if the industry is to maintain and expand consumption.” (Rosen, 2002, P. 9, Par 1).

World War II is significant in the history of textiles because it gave us the international trade regime allowing us to have a domain of that power. “Trade liberalization has been a major part of U.S foreign policy and its domestic industrial policy.” (Rosen, 2002, P.6, par 2). Having this after World War II allowed there to be peace between countries. Postwar also help led to a social contract between labor and management within sweatshops and factories. (Rosen, 2002, P.7, par. 3).

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

Trade policy was important to the United States and to Japan because it helped contain communism in East Asia after the war. (Rosen, 2002, P.10, par 1). The trade policy allowed to maintain an alliance between the United States and Japan. Allowing apparel and textile goods to be sent over and keeping a good grip on the business environment. This also helped create the “Asian Miracle” in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea. (Rosen, 2002, P.10, Par 2). The exports from those regions transformed the textile and apparel industries within the United States.

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)

From the beginning of the text, Rosen states, "A 'Sweatshop' is not merely a firm that offers poorly paid jobs or an authoritarian system of industrial relations--Employers who provide such jobs violate federal law." (Rosen, 2002, P.2, Par 3). Unions were created as a way for workers to protect their rights to fair wages and working conditions. This allowed many people, specifically, women, to fight and protect. In 1911, The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City had an impact on unions and on women, 125 women, and girls, the majority being immigrants, were burned to death or died from jumping out a window of a building factory in NYC because of the inability to escape the fire. This led to the general public supporting and pushing The New Deal to act in the 1930s, which allowed women the power of the International Ladies Garments Workers Union (ILGWU). (Rosen, 2002, P.1, Par 1). Overall, unions have helped many workers to find jobs that have wages that allow protection and security, allowing them able to support their families and themselves.

d. Name the Union established for Garment workers?

The Union established for Garment workers is called the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). (Rosen, 2002, P.1, Par 1).

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

The media has played a huge part in unionization by allowing and informing outsiders of the work and violations many sweatshops and factories have created. The media has allowed a way for workers and employees to not only express concern but to have us aware, the audience, of regulations, rules, hours, and wages. This huge role the media has played has helped improve and create unions, allowing people to feel secure financially and mentally. In New York City, the Minimum wage has only increased, and we have provided reasonable and beneficial benefits through unionization.