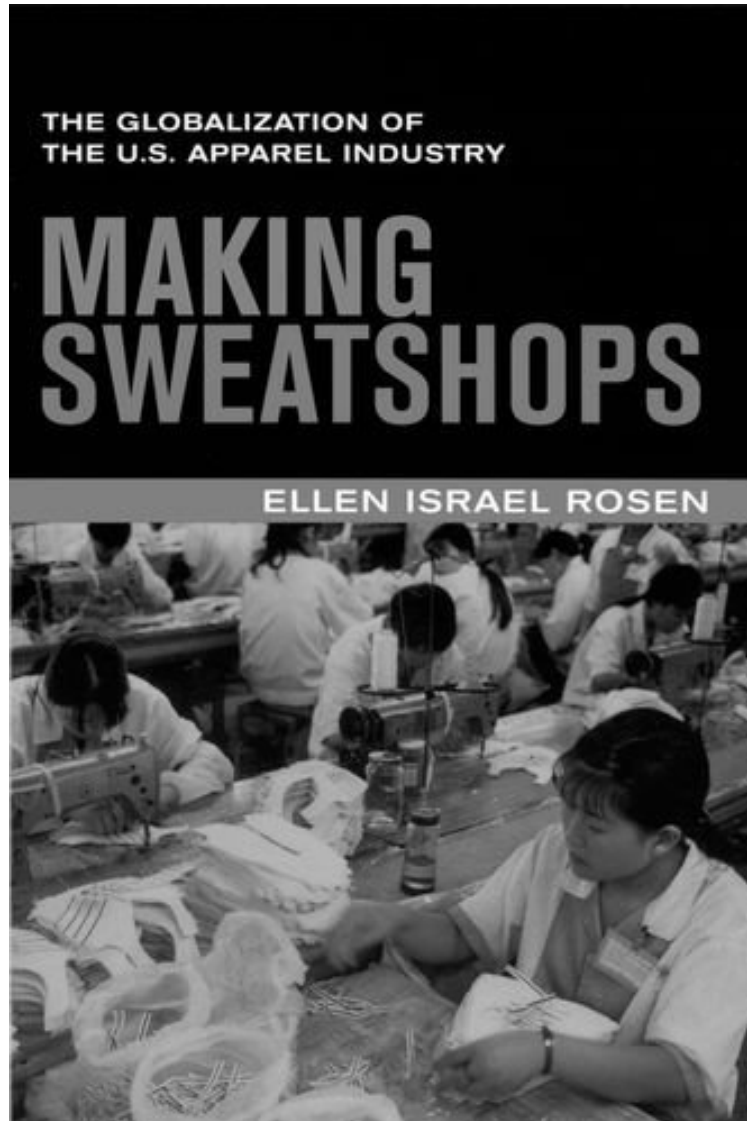


(Ebook free) Making Sweatshops: The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry

# Making Sweatshops: The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry

*Ellen Rosen*

*ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1910858 in eBooks 2002-12-03 2002-12-03 File Name: B003T9UCJI | File size: 65.Mb

**Ellen Rosen : Making Sweatshops: The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making Sweatshops: The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry:

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A history book that mattersBy MalvinEllen Israel Rosen's "Making Sweatshops" is a detailed but thoroughly readable history of the U.S. apparel industry in the post-WW II era. It holds important lessons for those who want to learn how conditions for millions of workers have deteriorated so rapidly and what we might consider in order to correct the situation. The author's meticulous documentation and professional writing should also make this book valued by other serious researchers for many years to come.Ms.

Rosen shows that power and ideology have played a large part in this story. The Asian apparel industry was allowed limited access to U.S. markets in order to contain the threat of Communist expansion in the early Cold War era. Later, neoliberal economists supported by the retail industry prevailed upon the Regan, Bush Sr. and Clinton administrations to promote apparel production in the Caribbean and Mexico. The author shows that workers' rights have consistently taken a back seat to these larger political and economic concerns. She demonstrates that the tightly-controlled system of globalized production and distribution does not much resemble the mutually-beneficial free trade model envisioned by Adam Smith and David Ricardo. Instead, mostly young and female workers are prevailed upon to produce at poor wages; they are viewed as mere inputs in a closed-loop system of finance and production. If these workers protest against the low value that has been pre-assigned to their labor, the corporation can easily replace these workers or move elsewhere to achieve its profit objectives. Ms. Rosen's book helps us understand not only how the post-industrial era has come about but also how it has been such a boon to capitalist managers and financiers. On the other hand, the opening of markets to low-wage countries means that free trade has been a race to the bottom for the working class. She suggests that the future for apparel workers will be grim until disparities in wealth between rich and poor nations are narrowed and worker's and women's rights are acknowledged. Ms. Rosen has written a history book that matters a great deal with respect to the quality of life we enjoy both in the U.S. and around the world, and I strongly urge you to read it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This will cause the reader to reflect on purchases.

By A Customer

The author makes a case that there is more to purchasing an apparel item than its price. The question the reader ends up with is: Who benefits from the present system of global trade?

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Sloppy work

By Gary E. Hoover

This book seems careless with facts. In making her case, the author claims that by the late 1970's, four big companies controlled the American department store industry, with \$11 Billion in sales did 5 times the revenues of JC Penney, which had more stores. This is part of an indictment. But the fact is that Penney did \$9.2 billion in 1977, the year referenced. Those "big four" were no such thing in the normal use of such phrasing. Her big 4 leave out Macy's and a long list of almost-as-big competitors across America. The dozens of publicly held department stores did about \$27 billion in 1977, and privately held firms did billions more. So the "big four" were less than half the industry, and each substantially smaller than JC Penney. Getting this data correct is high school level research difficulty. Such carelessness makes me skeptical about any conclusions put forth.

The only comprehensive historical analysis of the globalization of the U.S. apparel industry, this book focuses on the reemergence of sweatshops in the United States and the growth of new ones abroad. Ellen Israel Rosen, who has spent more than a decade investigating the problems of America's domestic apparel workers, now probes the shifts in trade policy and global economics that have spawned momentous changes in the international apparel and textile trade. *Making Sweatshops* asks whether the process of globalization can be promoted in ways that blend industrialization and economic development in both poor and rich countries with concerns for social and economic justice; especially for the women who toil in the industry's low-wage sites around the world. Rosen looks closely at the role trade policy has played in globalization in this industry. She traces the history of current policies toward the textile and apparel trade to cold war politics and the reconstruction of the Pacific Rim economies after World War II. Her narrative takes us through the rise of protectionism and the subsequent dismantling of trade protection during the Reagan era to the passage of NAFTA and the continued push for trade accords through the WTO. Going beyond purely economic factors, this valuable study elaborates the full historical and political context in which the globalization of textiles and apparel has taken place. Rosen takes a critical look at the promises of prosperity, both in the U.S. and in developing countries, made by advocates for the global expansion of these industries. She offers evidence to suggest that this process may inevitably create new and more extreme forms of poverty.

"A meticulous historical analysis of one of the world's most globalized industries and one of its most hot-button issues." - Stephen Cullenberg

From the Inside Flap

"*Making Sweatshops* reveals the inexorable movement towards an open trading system, the shifting alignments of actors pushing for or opposing openness, and, most centrally, how trade policy promotes the globalization of apparel production, filling a gap in our understanding of these dynamics." - Richard P. Appelbaum, coauthor of *Behind the Label: Inequality in the Los Angeles Apparel Industry*

"A detailed examination of the role that trade policy plays in the process of globalization. Rosen provides a meticulous historical analysis of the textile/apparel industry, one of the world's most globalized industries and one of its most hot-button issues." - Stephen Cullenberg, coauthor of *Transition and Development in India*

"Rosen shows how politics have always shaped the trade agenda from beginning to end, and she presents a most compelling case that if trade and the global economy are to foster justice and equality for the people of our world, we will need to rewrite the existing rules of global trade." - Charles Kernaghan, director of the National Labor Committee

"This book delves deep into the industry's trade journals, congressional testimony, newspaper accounts, and economic and political scholarship of the last fifty-five years to tell the story of U.S. trade policy and the decline of labor standards in the apparel industry. This patient and voluminous examination systematically reveals, for the first time, how the U.S. sacrificed its apparel workers on the altar, first of the anti-Communist crusade, and then of free trade

ideology."mdash;Robert J.S. Ross, PhD, Professor of Sociology and Director, International Studies Stream, Clark University"Making Sweatshops is, in part, a history of the apparel and textile industries in the U.S. and the world. But it is much more than that. It is also about power and globalization. Rosen explains how the former shapes the latter, and how workers around the world suffer because of it. Activists, policy makers, consumers--anyone interested in understanding why sweatshops exist--should read this book."mdash;Bruce Raynor, President, Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (Unite)"Rosen convincingly demonstrates that it is the transnational corporations rather than the consumers, and certainly rather than the workers, who benefit from trade liberalization, whose rules the lobbyists for these very coporations more or less write for supine politicians. This is a book in the great tradition of solid scholarship allied with deep commitment to the cause of global economic justice."mdash;Leslie Sklair, author of Globalization: Capitalism and its Alternatives