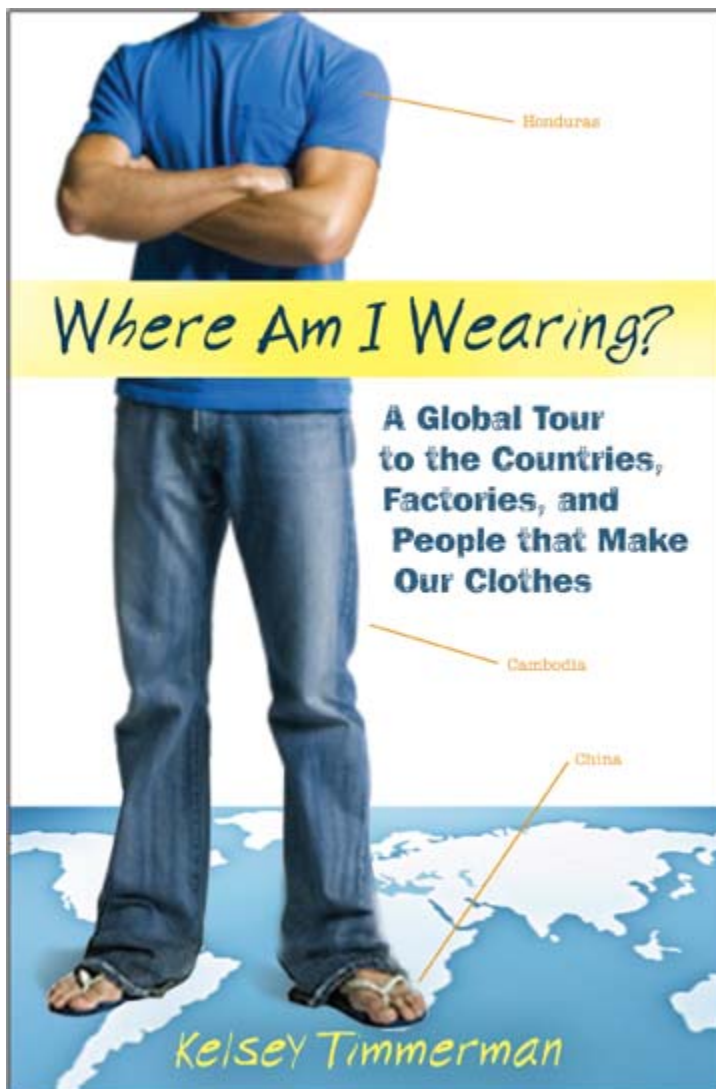


Advanced Placement Human Geography Summer 2011 Reading Assignment



Where Am I Wearing?

by Kelsey Timmerman

Ninety-seven percent of our clothes are made overseas. Yet globalization makes it difficult to know much about the origin of the products we buy—beyond the standard "Made in" label. So journalist and blogger Kelsey Timmerman decided to visit each of the countries and factories where his five favorite items of clothing were made and meet the workers. He knew the basics of globalized labor—the forces, processes, economics, and politics at work. But what was lost among all those facts and numbers was an understanding of the lives, personalities, hopes, and dreams of the people who made his clothes.

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Directions: Read and answer all questions below. Answers **MUST BE HANDWRITTEN**, no type-written answers will be accepted. Please answer in complete sentences. Answers will be due the first day of the fall semester. Be prepared to discuss the book in class. **Also complete the map and turn it in with your answers.**

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1. On page 4 paragraph 3, the author Kelsey Timmerman states that “globalization was a foreign problem” and that everybody was against it. In a source other than this book, find out what globalization is and explain it briefly.
2. What are two negative aspects of globalization Timmerman didn’t know about until college?
3. What was the original reason Timmerman decided to travel to the countries where his clothes were made?
4. On page 6 paragraph 2, the author states that everyone assumes clothes are all made in sweatshops. Find out what sweatshops are and briefly explain them.
5. Timmerman read books on globalization, but what was lost among the statistics of who produced garments?
6. Page 7 paragraph 1 mentions Thomas Friedman’s book *The World is Flat*. Look up the description of the book and briefly write what it’s about.
7. What is the difference between what activists believe about the garment industry and what some economists believe?
8. What is the contradiction workers feel about family?
9. How did the United States trading relationship first begin in Asia?
10. What is Thomas Friedman’s “Golden Arches Theory?”
11. How did the garment industry first change within our own country in the 1960s?
12. Page 9 paragraph 5 Timmerman states that the U.S. began “a race to the bottom.” Find out what this means as it relates to globalization.
13. What did the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Compensation Act intend to do?
14. Why don’t companies want their customers to think about where their products are made?
15. Why must labor rights activists be careful in pressuring companies for change?
16. Why did Timmerman find being “a college-educated, white male living in the United States” a problem?
17. What percentage of the people in Honduras are unemployed? The U.S. is in an economic recession right now, find out what percentage of American workers are unemployed.
18. When did many of the department stores in Timmerman’s hometown start to go out of business? What was the reason?
19. Bangladesh is the approximate size of the state of Iowa, but what are the respective populations of each country?
20. Dalton, the manager of Bangladesh’s Motorola store, is considered “lower middle-class.” and is educated, however, what is his home like?
21. What American companies purchase clothing from the buying-house company of Li and Fung?
22. Why did Timmerman have to lie in order to see the factories?
23. Fantasy Kingdom is Bangladesh’s equivalent to Disneyland. How many Bangladeshis can be admitted to Fantasy Kingdom for the price of one Disneyland ticket?
24. Five of the children Timmerman took to Fantasy Kingdom had never attended even one day of school. What did they do for a living?
25. Why do you think the author spent \$67.00 taking children to an amusement park when the money may have been better spent on something more practical for them?
26. What percentage of Bangladesh’s exports involve the garment industry?
27. Why does China have an edge over Bangladesh in the garment industry? Then why have Bangladeshi factories stayed in business?
28. After a *Dateline* program showing child laborers inside a garment factory in Bangladesh, American consumers started boycotting clothing made in Bangladesh out of concern for the children. Look up what a boycott is and explain it. Why didn’t they want our help?
29. The widespread use of child labor in the Bangladeshi apparel industry ended, however 93% of working children work in the informal sector of the economy. Find out what informal sector means and explain it.
30. What is one of the only reasons a child can work legally in the United States?

31. Since the Industrial Revolution, who have been the main workers in the clothes industry? Why these workers?
32. What kinds of injuries occur in the textile factory?
33. What are the various things Timmerman thinks children should be doing rather than working?
34. Why is educating and employing women one of the best ways to lift a society from poverty?
35. Where does Arifa, a garment worker in Dhaka, Bangladesh keep the family food?
36. Where is it common for young Bangladeshi men to go work? How long will Arifa's son be gone?
37. What's Arifa's hourly wage?
38. How many people share a single shower in Arifa's building?
39. Why does Arifa stop Timmerman 300 feet from the factory?
40. Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohammad Yunus formed Grameen Bank which gives microcredit loans to people who couldn't get loans from traditional banks. Write the paragraph that explains how these loans work.
41. Iqbal, a garment worker in Bangladesh, argues why China is not as good a place to make clothing. What reasons does he give?
42. What does Timmerman mean when he says "the world isn't black or white" referring to the proposed anti-sweatshop bill?
43. Sapon, a potential factory owner, had to quit school and get a job when his father could no longer work. Who all did he have to support with his job?
44. In Bangladesh, many women will not look at or touch a foreigner. Why then does the woman in the hotel shake a foreign man's hand?
45. In Cambodia, where beggars line the streets, a woman spends money to purchase a bird that she doesn't keep. What's her reason for paying for the bird and letting it go free?
46. What did the violent events in Chicago in 1886 eventually lead to in the U.S.?
47. What type of clothing gets credit for building the U.S. and creating its national identity?
48. Why are certain areas of Cambodia dangerous to walk in? Why do families continue to live there?
49. How many of Cambodia's population are amputees?
50. What countries are consumers of Levi's?
51. What percentage of Cambodia's exports are based on apparel?
52. What is the only reason many Cambodian children can go to school and speak English?
53. What does Timmerman mean about the 28-year old Cambodian women being "torn between two worlds?"
54. How many girls live in the apartment together in Cambodia and what is their sleeping arrangement?
55. How much do the girls earn per week?
56. What is the difference in the amount of living space between Timmerman's home in the U.S. and the garment workers in Cambodia?
57. Other than Levi's, what other big companies source from Cambodia?
58. Where do the products sold in the Russian market in Cambodia come from?
59. Where are most of the girls in Nari's apartment from?
60. What do they think of Americans who don't want to buy their jeans because they want to support Cambodian workers who aren't paid enough or treated fairly?
61. What is the ILO? What percentage of factories comply with labor laws?
62. What do some children do to get around child labor laws?
63. Why do unions in Cambodia have to be careful not to demand too much for their workers?
64. How many people does the average Cambodian factory worker support?
65. What does it mean that in Cambodia "their jobs might be located in the city, but their hearts are in the villages?"
66. What was one of the last U.S. garment manufacturers to give in to globalization and move their factories overseas?
67. How many workers in Cambodia have a hand in creating a single pair of jeans?
68. Levi's maintained strict global sourcing guidelines promising healthy working conditions for any worker making their products. What made them soften their standards?
69. How many days a week do garment workers have to work?

70. How did the U.S. get its standard 2-day weekend?
71. How often do garment workers travel home to their villages? Why so infrequently?
72. If most garment workers are women, what do the young men do?
73. In Cambodia, the shift from countryside to city comes at what cost?
74. How many Cambodian farmers now make a living as scavengers at the Stung Meanchey Municipal Waste Dump? How much do they earn on average? How much do children earn? Why the difference?
75. What is meant by "one person's sweatshop is another's opportunity?"
76. How many workers are used to make a pair of flip-flops? A pair of tennis shoes?
77. Why are flip-flops the shoe of choice in developing countries?
78. Shoe factory workers Dewan and Zhu Chun live in Guangzhou, China, but their 13-year old son lives in their home village. When was the last time they saw their son? Why don't they visit more often?
79. What percentage of the world's shoes are made in China?
80. What qualities does China have that entice factories to locate there?
81. Approximately how many hours a week do Dewan and Zhu Chun work?
82. Why do Dewan and Zhu Chun work many more hours than they are legally allowed to even when they don't get paid for the extra time?
83. Dewan and Zhu Chun hope to return to their village someday where life is better. How old will their son be when they plan to return? What do you think he may do at that age?
84. Where was the region of the U.S. that originally had difficult working conditions like these developing countries? Where did it relocate before going overseas?
85. How many Chinese cities have a population of over 1 million people?
86. When Timmerman goes to visit Dewan's and Zhu Chun's village, what does he mean that "the room is missing a generation?"
87. Why was China delayed in industrializing until the 1980s?
88. Why does Timmerman say "there aren't too many places in the world . . . like Guangzhou." Why, what is unique about it?
89. French sociologist Emile Durkheim wrote that the parts of a society rely more heavily on one another in the modern age. What does he mean by this?
90. Timmerman speaks about solidarity. Find out what solidarity means and define it.
91. When the United States was industrializing, we cared more about the workers' lives. Why is it easier to ignore the people who now make our clothes and other products?
92. In an American Wal-Mart, fish tanks would be found in the pet section. What section are they in the Wal-Mart in China? Why there?
93. What percentage of the Chinese Wal-Mart items are made in China?
94. How many people have been lifted out of poverty by China's fast-growing economy?
95. In visiting the factory that made his shorts in Perry, New York, Timmerman finds out the reason American Classic Outfitters (ACO) has been successful in competing against foreign factories. What's the reason?
96. How was the feel of the American-based factory different than the working environment in foreign countries?
97. What does the ACO factory mean to Perry, New York?
98. When asked if the factories he visited were "sweatshops," Timmerman responded, "I don't know." Why couldn't he really answer that question?
99. What percentage of American consumers polled said they'd be willing to pay \$5.00 more for a piece of clothing that was not made in a sweatshop?
100. Timmerman states he is now an "engaged consumer." What does he now do before purchasing clothing?