

*Where Am I Wearing?*

Part V – My Shorts: Made in the USA

Chapters 26-27 & Appendix

1. Talking with his family about his experiences, Timmerman discovers that his grandmother had been a garment worker in Versailles, Ohio. Talk to your family members about their youthful occupations. Have you discovered anything interesting or that you didn't know about what they did to survive?
2. In “Untold Stories” Timmerman states that “the media gives corporations a reason not to advance the ‘Why’ conversation” (235). Do you believe this to be true? Back up your reasons with examples in which the media has distorted or over-played the reality of a situation?
3. Timmerman quotes a statement in a national poll conducted in 2004 for the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland in which 83 percent of those polled agreed. (237) The statement is as follows:

*Free trade is an important goal for the United States, but it should be balanced with other goals, such as protecting workers, the environment, and human rights—even if this may mean slowing the growth of trade and the economy.*

In the current economic conditions of 2011, do you think 83% of those polled would still agree? Why or why not?

4. Timmerman doesn't mention U.S. migrant workers specifically, but do you see a correlation between the working conditions for migrant workers and the conditions he cites overseas workers perform under?
5. In the final chapter, Timmerman claims to research before he buys, locating company websites to check their involvement in monitoring factories, etc. Are you willing to go to this extreme for the products you buy? Is this a reasonable solution to avoiding sweatshops? Does boycotting products produced by potentially disreputable companies change anything for us as consumers or for workers in third-world countries?
6. The book's appendix gives step-by-step directions for finding out exactly where and under what conditions your clothes were produced. Review the steps. Which of them could you reasonably accomplish? Are there other ways you can think of to help improve working conditions for the world's textile workers?