

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



WHERE AM I WEARING?

Activities & Discussion Guide

Updated 5/25/11



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



A note from Kelsey

“Where Am I Wearing” has found its way into a wide array of high school and college courses including sociology courses at Rutgers, Carnegie-Mellon, and Colorado State, business courses at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business, California State, and the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and Anthropology courses at Ball State and Wingate to name a few. It’s an absolute honor to introduce students to the workers I met on my journey. Seven colleges have selected the book for all of their incoming freshmen to read as part of their first year experience. [Learn more about using Where Am I Wearing as a first year common reader here.](#)

Since more and more classes are adopting “Where Am I Wearing?” into their curricula, I thought a discussion guide might be useful. So here it is in PDF form, complete with clickable links. Use the questions and activities included however you feel fit - in class or as homework. Print it out, read it on your iPhone, or use it on your classroom computer. I’ve also included updates throughout.

I want to visit your class. I’ve visited more than 50 colleges and high schools around the country and would love to visit yours. Learn more about inviting me to speak. My preference is to visit in person, but I’ve also participated on blackboard with classes, and done virtual visits via SKYPE. You can find more resources, see how other professors/teachers are using the book, and updates to this guide [here.](#)

WAIW is about my journey, but since the book came out it has become about our journey - consumers and companies, teachers and students. My sincerest thanks for being a part of sharing this story with your students. If you’d like to suggest any changes, or simply want to chat, feel free to email me at kelsey@kelseytimmerman.com.

Thanks,

Kelsey

PS - Join my new Project [Going Glocal](#)



Watch me in action

(Click the photo above)

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: A Consumer Goes Global
Activity: Where Are You Wearing?

Chapter 2: Tattoo's Tropical Paradise
Activity: You Are What You Wear

Chapter 3: Fake Blood, Sweat, and Tears
Activity: Is This a Sweatshop?

Chapter 4: Jingle These

Chapter 5: Undercover in the Underwear Biz

Chapter 6: Bangladesh Amusement Park
Activity: Fantasy Kingdom

Chapter 7: Inside My First Sweatshop

Chapter 8: Child Labor in Action
Activity: The Child Labor Debate

Chapter 9: Arifa, the Garment Worker
Activity: The Girl Effect

Chapter 10: Hope
Activity: Become Micro-lenders

Chapter 11: No Black and White, Only Green

Chapter 12: Labor Day

Chapter 13: Year Zero

Table of Contents

Chapter 14: Those Who Wear Levi's

Chapter 15: Those Who Make Levi's
Activity: Sim Sweatshop

Chapter 16: Progress

Chapter 17: Treasure & Trash

Chapter 18: PO'ed VP

Chapter 19 & 20: Margaritaville &
Life at the Bottom

Chapter 21: Growing Pains

Chapter 22: The Real China

Chapter 23: On a Budget

Activity: You, Breakfast, and the World

Chapter 24: An All-American Chinese Wal-Mart

Chapter 25: The Chinese Fantasy

Activity: Globalization and Your Family

Chapter 26: For Richer, for Poorer

Chapter 27: Untold Stories

Activity: The World We Live In

Parting Note from Kelsey

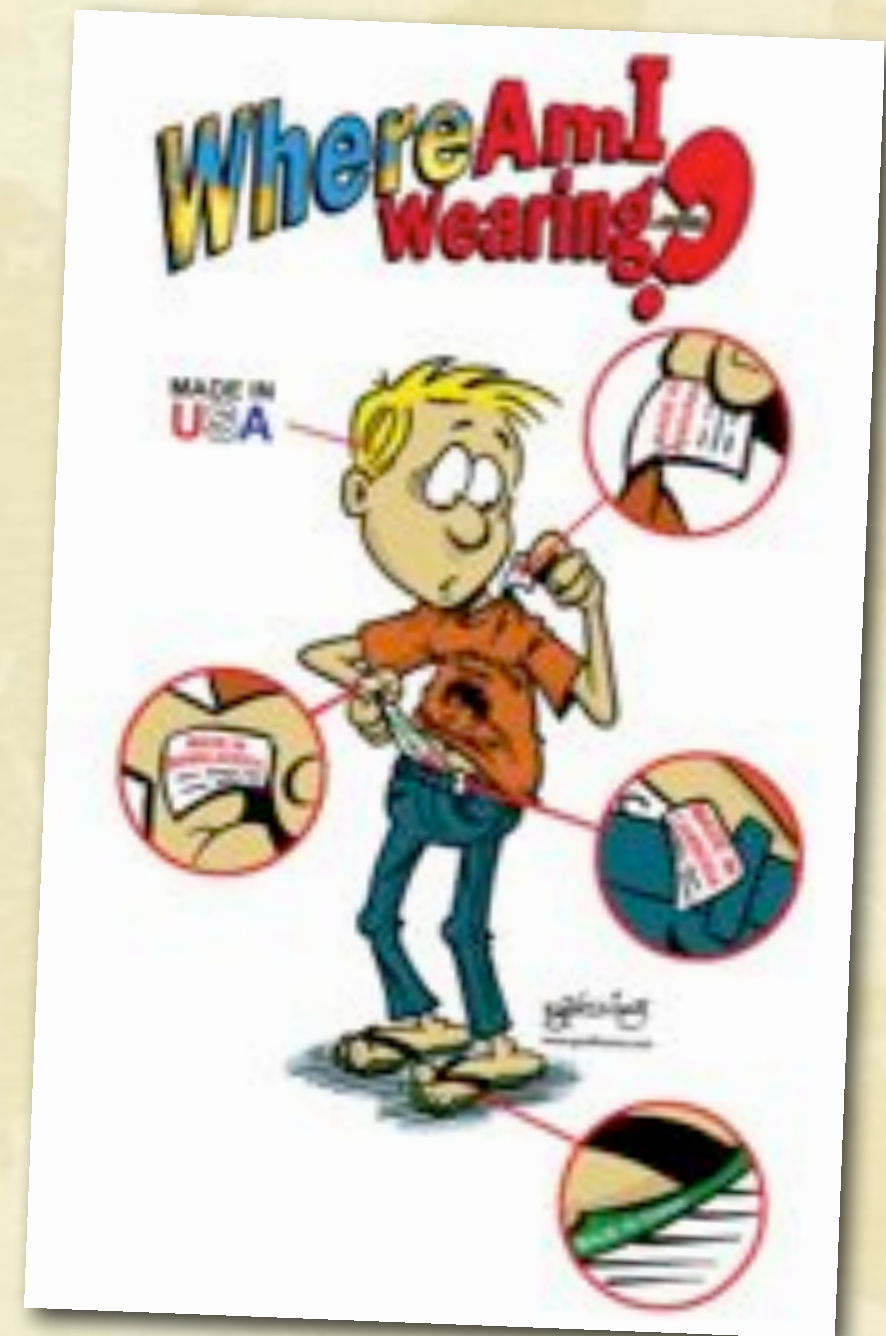
Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 1

A Consumer Goes Global



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Activity: Where Are you wearing?

Step 1) Check the tag of your T-shirt

Step 2) What brand is it? What country is it from?

Step 3) Share with the class. Are there any commonalities?

Step 4) Discuss



Discussion

- 1) Kelsey writes (pg. 4): “Globalization was a foreign problem of which I was blissfully unaware, for the most part. I did know that it was a problem and that I was against it. Everybody was.” What do you think he meant by that?
- 2) Can you think of any positive or negative effects globalization has had in your community? How does globalization impact you on a daily basis, does it change your day-to-day life?
- 3) What is a sweatshop?
- 4) What is the potential impact on a name/brand such as Kathie Lee Gifford or Disney having to ‘admit’ to child labor or sweatshop issues? How much personal/corporate responsibility do you think a company has for such use by contractors or sub-contractors who use such manufacturing methods?

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



- 5) Consider a pair of your jeans. Where does the tag say they were made? Now consider the pieces (components) of your jeans: thread, cotton, zipper (metal or plastic, etc), rivets (if any), dye. Were the pieces likely to have been made in the same place? Research companies and countries that could possibly make each of the pieces of your jeans. How many countries might have had a hand in your jeans?
- 6) Timmerman describes his trip to Honduras as a failure. In what sense was it a failure? Are there ways in which the trip could be deemed a success? Justify your answer with specifics.
- 7) “Developing nations wanted our business and we wanted their cheap products.” (p 9) In light of the previous statement, discuss the relationship that the US has with China, and reflect on what changes to that relationship may be occurring as China continues to grow economically.
- 8) “The people who make our clothes are poor. We are rich.” (p. 11) Most college students do not think of themselves as ‘rich.’ Look at what you have in your room (at home, dorm, apartment). Honestly try to write down the price you or someone else paid so you could have each item. Total the value of your assets in this single room. Now calculate how long it would take you to buy all these things on the \$1.25 per day that defines world poverty levels. Discuss the concept of “we are rich” in light of the calculations you just made.

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 2

Tattoo's Tropical Paradise



Activity: You are what you wear

What do your T-shirts say about who you are? List the 'say something' t-shirts you own. What do they say about you?

Discussion

- 1) What do you think the reaction of you, your family members, your peers, others would be if a stranger were to approach you on the street as Timmerman did Amilcar and others in Honduras? Why? Why
- 2) Compare Amilcar's life to Timmerman's? Where will you be and what will you be doing when you are 25?

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 3

Fake Blood, Sweat, and Tears



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Activity: Is this a sweatshop?



ASDA is Britain's second biggest supermarket. The company has installed webcams into two factories in Bangladesh to reassure customers that its standards and working conditions are up to snuff.

The supermarket has 584 factories globally, 40 of which are in Bangladesh.

Step 1) Visit the webcams

Step 2) Do the workers and factories look like you expected them too? How or how not?

Where Are You Wearing?



Discussion

- 1) What role do protestors play in worker's rights?
- 2) Was Timmerman's quest to Honduras a 'failure'?
- 3) Did he get to the exact factory?
- 4) Did he speak with the workers who made the tee shirt
- 5) Did he 'learn' what he wanted to learn? What did he learn?



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 4

Jingle These



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Discussion

- 1) What is the population density (people/square mile) of your home state? Compare that to Bangladesh.
- 2) Dalton showed Kelsey a photo of two boys using a dog as a pillow on the street. Kelsey was surprised Dalton “saw” it. Why? What don’t you see in your everyday life?
- 3) Who is the prime minister of Bangladesh? Have you heard the name before? Why do the Bangladeshi’s Kelsey meets have an opinion on American politics?
- 4) Does Kabaddi sound like fun? Does it look like fun? Watch this and discuss.
- 5) Compare Dalton’s status in Bangladeshi society with Kelsey’s in American society? Thomas Friedman says the world is flat, meaning that anyone with talent and ability has a shot regardless of what country in which they were born. Does Dalton’s story support this?



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 5

Undercover in the Underwear Biz



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Discussion

- 1) How does Kelsey feel about going undercover as an underwear buyer? Should Kelsey have presented himself this way? Do you think he would have gotten inside the factory otherwise?
- 2) What role does a buying house play in the garment supply chain?



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 6

Bangladesh Amusement Park



Discussion

- 1) Compare being a kid in Bangladesh to being a kid in the USA.
- 2) What is the per capita income of Bangladesh? What percent of the income is a ticket to Fantasy Kingdom?
- 3) What is the per capita income of your state? What percent of the income is a price to Disney World?
- 4) Do you think Kelsey should have done something else with his money?

(Note from Kelsey: The roller coaster at Fantasy Kingdom didn't do loops or corkscrews, but it was the scariest rider I've ever been on. The whole time I was thinking, "Who inspected this thing and when was it last inspected.")

Activity: Listen to Kelsey's essay on his visit to Fantasy Kingdom

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Note from Kelsey



The minimum wage in Bangladesh has nearly doubled. Arifa is now not supposed to earn less than \$42 per month. I talked with Dalton and he basically said, "I'll believe it when I see it." I had him ask Arifa if he thought it would make her life any better and she said that it wouldn't. The increase might take her back to the same quality of life that she was living in 2007 when I visited. The cost of living has tripled.

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 7

Inside My First Sweatshop



Discussion

- 1) How has the multi-fibre agreement affected Bangladesh? How has its lifting affected Bangladesh?
- 2) Why is the garment industry so important to Bangladesh?
- 3) Have you ever heard of the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Trade Act? What happened to the Act? If passed do you think it would improve the lives of Bangladeshi's working in the garment industry?
- 4) What was the result of the U.S. boycott on Made in Bangladesh products?
- 5) What role did Kathie Lee play in the garment industry? Do you think that celebrities and athletes should be held accountable for their product lines or the products they endorse.
- 6) The International Labour Rights Organization estimates that 1.3 million children work more than 43 hours each week. How is "child" defined in Bangladesh and in the U.S.?

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 8

Child Labor in Action



Activity: The Child Labor Debate

Step 1 - Read this [report by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

Step 2 - Break into small groups.

Step 3 - Assign groups either “Pro-Child Labor” or “Anti-Child Labor.” Small groups come up with arguments for or against child labor in Bangladesh.

Step 4 - Come back together and have a debate. (Consider using the discussion questions to help guide the debate.)

Discussion

- 1) Do you agree or disagree with Kelsey's statement: "Not having children make out clothes does not eliminate the reality that many children in Bangladesh must work, but it eliminates our guilt in the matter."
- 2) What was your first job? How much did you earn? Why did you have the job? What did you spend your money on? Compare to the child laborers in Bangladesh.
- 3) Why do you think Dalton wouldn't ask the ages of the children?
- 4) Do you think the factory owners employing the children behaving ethically?



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 9

Arifa, the Garment Worker



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Activity: The Girl Effect

Watch The Girl Effect video and discuss:

Discussion:

- 1) Why is it so important to employ women?
- 2) Why has the fertility rate in Bangladesh declined from 6.6 in 1975 to 2.96 in 2009?
- 3) What are ways that Arifa makes ends meet?
- 4) What types of support do single mothers get in the United States? What kind of support does Arifa receive?
- 5) Why didn't Kelsey give Arifa the \$20 in his pocket?

(Note from Kelsey: Right before I left Bangladesh I went back and gave Arifa the \$20 and my remaining Bangladeshi taka. I ran up the flights of stairs, handed her an envelope and ran out to catch my flight. I'm not sure if it was the right thing to do or not, but I would have regretted not doing it. I recorded an essay about my time with Arifa. Give it a listen.)



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 10

Hope



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Activity: Become micro-lenders

Have each student bring in one dollar or use your own (you get it back in the end). Combine your funds and visit Kiva.org (an online microlending site). Have the class vote on a borrower to support.



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Discussion



1) Why did Bibi come back to Bangladesh?

(Kelsey's question: For most of my life I wanted to leave the Midwest and go somewhere with mountains and or ocean. But after traveling to more than 40 countries and living away from where I grew up for five years, I came back. Now that I'm married with a daughter and a son, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. There are things that my "home" lacks, but the Midwest is what I know, it's where my family is, for better and worse it's my home. What does home mean to you?)

2) Is Bibi too selfless? How would you feel if you were her mother, sibling, or child?

3) How does the Grameen bank work? How is it different from traditional lending from your local bank?

4) Read some of the opposition the Grameen Bank is facing.
Discuss these criticisms the Grameen bank faces.

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 11

No Black & White, Only Green



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Rising living costs, stagnant wages, and decreased orders pushed the Bangladeshi industry to the limit. The worker's protested, union leaders were jailed, workers were beaten and killed, and factories were vandalized. At one point to feed a family of four rice - just rice - for the month cost \$15. When you earn \$24 per month like Arifa that doesn't leave a whole lot left over.

Take 15 minutes and research how the uprising unfolded and how or if it has been resolved. Compare this to American worker protests at the start of the 20th century.



Discussion

- 1) How can the Bangladeshi garment industry compete with China?
- 2) What will happen if the Bangladeshi garment industry dries up?
- 3) Is Sapon what you expected a garment factory owner to be like? *(KT Note: Sapon's factory went out of business last year.)*
- 4) On Page 76 Kelsey writes, "Before I came to Bangladesh and met Arifa and visited the factories, I would have been all for any bill that was against sweatshops and child labor. But the world isn't black or white, good or bad. The intentions of the bill seem good and, if carried out, could lead to the improvement of working conditions worldwide, but it also could mean considerable job loss in Bangladesh."
 - Weigh job loss versus working conditions
 - Weigh income loss today versus educational benefits in future
 - Weigh loss of (decrease in) exports due to higher prices versus low standard of living
- 5) On page 76 Kelsey writes, "I hope that if it passes, lawmakers will consider the results it could have on the Bangladeshi worker and plan to assist those who lose their jobs."
 - What could the US do?
 - What should the US do ethically?
 - What do you think the US taxpayer would be willing to do?
 - What, if any, is the US's obligation to these workers if we pass the law?

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 12

Labor Day



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Discussion

- 1) Read this report by UNICEF Thailand on begging. Discuss if a traveler should or should not give to kids begging on the street.
- 2) Listen to this radio Report from Kelsey recounting the opening scene of this chapter. Would you have paid to have the bird rescued in the river?
- 3) What do we celebrate on Labor Day? Why was Labor Day moved from May to September in the United States?

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 13

Year Zero



Discussion

- 1) Why does Tim Rem live in a minefield?
- 2) Where did all of the mines and UXOs come from?
- 3) Over thirty years later and the large majority of Khmer Rouge leaders haven't been tried. In fact, as Kelsey saw in the countryside many of them live in better conditions than the countrymen they terrorized. Visit [Cambodian Genocide](#) and discuss justice and forgiveness. Should Tim Rem be forgiven for his acts?



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 14

Those Who Wear Levi's





Discussion

- 1) What is an “Ugly American?” What did you think of the foreigners Kelsey meets at Steve’s Barbecue?
- 2) In Bangladesh Kelsey was a novelty. In Cambodia he’s not. Why are there so many foreigners in Cambodia?
- 3) Is it acceptable to dip French fries into mashed potatoes or is that over doing a bit on the potatoage? (*I’d really like to know. Email me at kelsey@kelseytimmerman.com*)
- 4) Why aren’t Levi’s for sale in Cambodia? What does this say about the lives of the people who make blue jeans?
- 5) The “relationships” that Kelsey witnesses between foreigners and Khmer girls doesn’t sit well with Kelsey. (In fact, his editor made him tone down his distaste in the book.), but are “love and money” relationships that different than those in the United States.

Where Are You Wearing?



Chapter 15

Those Who Make Levi's



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Activity: Sim Sweatshop

You are invited to enter the world of the sweatshop (www.simsweatshop.com) and become a factory worker. Do you accept the challenge? Can you tirelessly make sports shoes for less than a dollar an hour as you struggle to support your family? Let the game begin...



Discussion

- 1) How big is your room (at home, dorm, apartment)? What is the square feet per person of your room? Compare that to the 12 s.q. feet per person of the girls Kelsey meets in Cambodia. How do you think this shapes their lives and personalities?
- 2) What defines beauty in the United States? What defines beauty in Cambodia?
- 3) Review Levi's supplier info. Who is responsible for working conditions?
- 4) When you think about Levi's what images do you imagine? How do these differ from this Levi's commercial.
- 4) What role did unions play in worker's rights in the United States?
- 5) Describe the stereotypical garment worker.
- 6) Discuss unions role in the fight for worker's rights? What is the role of unions today in the United States? What is the role of unions in Cambodia?
- 8) Who owns the factories in Cambodia? Who works in the factories? Who buys the products produced in the factories? What does it mean that you just gave three different answers?

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 16

Progress



Discussion

- 1) What do you think the workers think of Americans? What do you make of the presence of the Snow White poster in the girl's room, the prevalence of WWE wrestler T-shirts, the question that the taxi driver asks: "Do American girls wear underwear?"
- 2) Compare Nari's and Ai's life in the village versus their life in the city.
- 3) Compare Nari's family's home with Ai's family's home.
- 4) Are you economically independent of your family? If not, will you be when you graduate college and get a job? How does economic independence provided by safety nets such as insurance, unemployment insurance, workman's comp, social security, medicare/Medicaid influence family structure.

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 17

Treasure & Trash



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Discussion

- 1) How did this chapter make you feel? Did you know that people lived like this?
- 2) “One person’s sweatshop is another’s opportunity?” What did Kelsey mean by this? Do you agree?
- 3) Can one person make a difference? Watch this 9-minute video about Scott Neeson’s work at the dump and discuss.
- 4) Because of the global recession, we stopped buying so much clothes. 40,000 workers in Cambodia lost their jobs. There is so much pressure on these girls to support their families that many of them have to do whatever it takes to bring in an income. Read this article and discuss.



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



One of my deepest regrets from this entire trip was not doing something for the boy with the cut in his foot and the girl with the smile. Could I have done something to give them a shot at a better life? I'm not sure. But this is one of those times when I feel that I should have at least tried to do something. What would you have done?

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 18

PO'ed VP



Mini-smelly-activity: Shoes Off

Shoes off! Everybody check to see where they were made. Eighty-five percent of shoes are made in China, most within 100 miles of the factory Kelsey visited.

Discussion

- 1) If you were Pat how would you have handled Kelsey?
- 2) Did Kelsey treat Pat fairly in the book?
- 3) Watch a shoe be made at one of the few remaining shoe factories in the United States .

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 19 & 20

Margaritaville / Life at the Bottom



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Discussion

To get a true sense of life at a factory in China I highly recommends watching the documentary China Blue

- 1) If you were Pat how would you have handled Kelsey?
- 2) Did Kelsey treat Pat fairly in the book?
- 3) How many hours a week does the Chinese law say Dewan and Zhu Chun can work? How many do they actually work?
- 4) Dewan's and Zhu Chun's labor is often free (they aren't paid), but are they free.
- 5) Compare "sweatshops" as an economic growth tool in free markets vs sweatshops in a controlled economy such as China. Consider that Cambodia and Bangladesh have unions and NGOs supporting workers and China does not.

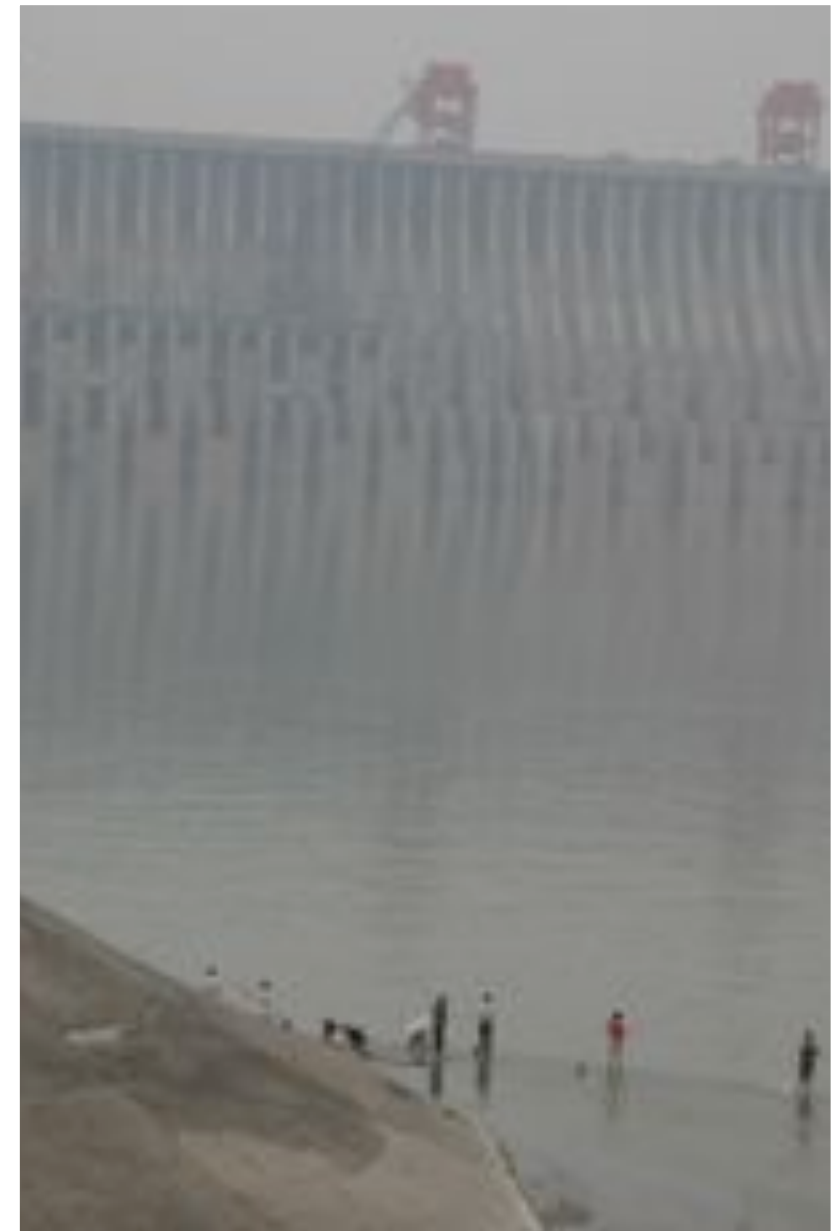
Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 21

Growing Pains



Discussion

- 1) If the government told you they needed you to move for the “greater good” what would you do?
- 2) Compare those displaced by the Three Gorges Dam to the farmers and residents in Missouri whose property was flooded after the Army Corps of Engineers blew the levees to save cities down river on the Mississippi. What course of action are the farmers taking? Could the Chinese take this type of action? Both were displaced by decisions the government made, but how did they react differently?
- 3) Discuss Western individualism vs. Asian collectivism.
- 4) Is the Three Gorges Dam good or bad for the environment? Consider this Economist article.
- 5) Do you think that all countries need to suffer through bad working conditions and worker exploitation on the path to development? Consider the paths of the United States, Taiwan, South Korea, and Mexico.
- 6) April 2010 marked the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire in New York City. Listen to Robert Pinsky’s poem about the disaster.

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 22

The Real China



Discussion

Listen to Kelsey describe his experience with Dewan and Zhu Chun and his visit to their village.

- 1) In this chapter Kelsey suffers a fair amount of culture shock (pushing to get on bus, eating pig heart, kids that won't play). Have you ever experienced culture shock? When and how?
- 2) Why is it that Dewan and Zhu Chun's families want to live in the cities?
- 3) Compare village and city life in China.

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 23

On a Budget



Activity: You, Breakfast, and the world

Read the Martin Luther King quote below. Who did you depend on this morning before you finished eating breakfast?

It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We are made to live together because of the interrelated structure of reality. Did you ever stop to think that you can't leave for your job in the morning without being dependent on most of the world? You get up in the morning and go to the bathroom and reach over for the sponge, and that's handed to you by a Pacific islander. You reach for a bar of soap, and that's given to you at the hands of a Frenchman. And then you go into the kitchen to drink your coffee for the morning, and that's poured into your cup by a South American. And maybe you want tea: that's poured into your cup by a Chinese. Or maybe you're desirous of having cocoa for breakfast, and that's poured into your cup by a West African. And then you reach over for your toast, and that's given to you at the hands of an English-speaking farmer, not to mention the baker. And before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world. This is the way our universe is structured, this is its interrelated quality. We aren't going to have peace on Earth until we recognize this basic fact of the interrelated structure of all reality.

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Discussion

Watch 2008 ESPN update about Jim Keady's fight against NIKE (6 minutes) or for a more in-depth look at Keady watch his 20-minute documentary.

- 1) What do you think of Jim Keady's efforts?
- 2) Do you think Jim's efforts could lead to positive change?
- 3) Many in the garment industry point to NIKE as leading the way when it comes to improved labor conditions in faraway factories. Review Nikes "Workers & Factories" page. Does this change the way you see NIKE or Keady's efforts?
- 4) What is solidarity?
- 5) What is the minimum amount of money you could live on?

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 24

An All-American Chinese Wal-Mart



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Discussion

- 1) Who shops at Wal-Mart in the United States? Who shops at Wal-Marts in China? Compare and contrast.
- 2) How is Wal-Mart trying to retrain consumers in China?
- 3) What is middle class? Compare lifestyles of the middle class in Cambodia, China, and the United States.



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 25

The Chinese Fantasy



AUTHOR | SPEAKER | TOURS

WWW.KELSEYTIMMERMAN.COM

Activity: Globalization and your family

What did your grandparents do for a living? How about your great grandparents? How does your lifestyle and desired profession compare to theirs? Trace the professions of your great grandparents through to your parents' and ultimately to your desired profession. What do the jobs your family had say about the times they lived in and about the changing national/global economy?



Discussion

- 1) Should Kelsey have told Dewan and Zhu Chun what Pat makes per year? Is ignorance bliss?
- 2) Kelsey gets asked all the time if the workers are resentful of the lifestyle we live in America. How would you answer the question?
- 3) Is buying “Made in China” bad or good for America? Is it bad or good for China?
- 4) What is the China Fantasy?



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Chapter 26

For Richer, For Poorer



Discussion

- 1) How does the factory in Perry, NY compare to the other factories Kelsey visited?
- 2) How has your town been impacted by globalization? Do locals think the change has been good or bad?

Note from Kelsey: *A year after the book came out I received an email from my brother with a link to an article announcing that Adidas was pulling out of ACO and going to source abroad. Since then I've been in contact with a reporter in Perry. The company laid off a good portion of their workforce and were trying to find an investor to get them through a tough time. The future for the factory and Perry were no longer bright.*

- 3) Should NBA teams and other American sports have their uniforms made in the United States? Where were your school's uniforms manufactured?

Where Are You Wearing?



Chapter 27

Untold Stories



Discussion

- 1) *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof says the world needs more sweatshops. Read [this article arguing that the garment industry would help fight poverty in Africa](#): Do you agree or disagree? What do you think Kelsey would say about this article?
- 2) What kind of consumer are you (bargain, buy American, Conscientious, Low impact, engaged, or mindless)?
- 3) How do our shopping decisions influence the lives of the garment workers Kelsey met?
- 4) Do people care?
- 5) Is it in our short term interest to buy cheap stuff? Is it in our long term interest? Why or why not? Read [this post by Kelsey](#) and discuss.

Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Activity: The world we live in

Add up the value of everything the kids below is “wearing” (currently in GB pounds so you’ll have to convert). How long would it take Arifa to earn enough to buy everything the kid has? How long would it take Arifa to earn what you are wearing?



Where Are You Wearing?

KELSEY
TIMMERMAN



Parting Note from Kelsey

Things like sweatshops, child labor, and people working for \$24/month, are all just symptoms of the extreme poverty that is prevalent across our world. Yes, we should try to be engaged consumers (I have some [tips here to educate yourself and think about the impact your school has](#)), but it doesn't end there. I believe we need to become glocals - global and local citizens. We need to be better donors ([giving like Bill Gates gives](#)), [volunteers](#), and neighbors. Each of us needs to look at what we are good at and share that with the world to fight poverty in our own communities and around the world. I'm currently on a mission to [Go Glocal. I'd love for you to join me.](#)

We might not always be able to control the impact that forces like globalization have on our lives, but we can control the impact our lives have on the world.

Happy travels!

Kelsey

Where Are You Wearing?

