

University of Windsor

Scholarship at UWindsor

Major Papers

Theses, Dissertations, and Major Papers

February 2022

Globalization and Trade Liberalization: The Impact on Bangladesh's Textile Industry

Jamie DiMenna
dimennaj@uwindsor.ca

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/major-papers>



Part of the [International Relations Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

DiMenna, Jamie, "Globalization and Trade Liberalization: The Impact on Bangladesh's Textile Industry" (2022). *Major Papers*. 207.

<https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/major-papers/207>

This Major Research Paper is brought to you for free and open access by the Theses, Dissertations, and Major Papers at Scholarship at UWindsor. It has been accepted for inclusion in Major Papers by an authorized administrator of Scholarship at UWindsor. For more information, please contact scholarship@uwindsor.ca.

GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION: THE IMPACT ON
BANGLADESH'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY

By

Jamie DiMenna

A Major Research Paper
Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies
through the Department of Political Science
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Arts
at the University of Windsor

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

2022

© 2022 Jamie DiMenna

GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION: THE IMPACT ON
BANGLADESH'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY

by

Jamie DiMenna

APPROVED BY:

J. Essex
Department of Political Science

S. Ovadia, Advisor
Department of Political Science

February 15th 2022

DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby certify that I am the sole author of this thesis and that no part of this thesis has been published or submitted for publication.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, my thesis does not infringe upon anyone's copyright nor violate any proprietary rights and that any ideas, techniques, quotations, or any other material from the work of other people included in my thesis, published or otherwise, are fully acknowledged in accordance with the standard referencing practices. Furthermore, to the extent that I have included copyrighted material that surpasses the bounds of fair dealing within the meaning of the Canada Copyright Act, I certify that I have obtained a written permission from the copyright owner(s) to include such material(s) in my thesis and have included copies of such copyright clearances to my appendix.

I declare that this is a true copy of my thesis, including any final revisions, as approved by my thesis committee and the Graduate Studies office, and that this thesis has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other University or Institution.

ABSTRACT

Globalization has resulted in permeable borders and economic integration between states. Global integration has led to unevenness in development where the Global North has exploited the Global South for resources, labour and capital gain. Within this paper, the dynamics between the Global North and the Global South as a result of globalization will be analyzed and discussed using the state of Bangladesh as a case study. As a result of globalization, uneven economic growth has negatively affected the textile industry in Bangladesh while fuelling the growth of the global economy. An argument will be made against the current state of globalization and the imbalances it has created between states. The textile industry in Bangladesh comprises a majority of the country's gross domestic product and national exports. Trade liberalization has changed the landscape in Bangladesh and allowed for greater economic growth as well. This economic growth has come at a cost, as income instability is a prominent issue amongst Bangladeshi textile workers. A review of prominent literature will provide varying arguments on the state of Bangladesh, the textile industry and the effects of the globalized economy. Methodologically, this study will depict the reasoning behind the focus on Bangladesh as a case study. Although globalization has produced imbalanced outcomes, there is an opportunity for political, economic and international change.

Key Words: Globalization, Trade, State Development, Bangladesh, Textile Industry, Trade Liberalization

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHAPTER TWO: DEFINING GLOBALIZATION.....	6
<i>LITERATURE REVIEW: BANGLADESH AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY</i>	12
CHAPTER THREE: WHY BANGLADESH? /METHODOLOGY	22
CHAPTER FOUR: GLOBALIZATION AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY.....	28
CHAPTER FIVE: THE CASE OF BANGLADESH.....	39
CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	50
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	53
REFERENCES.....	61
VITA AUCTORIS.....	72

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

*Where globalization means, as it so often does,
that the rich and powerful now have new means
to further enrich and empower themselves at the cost
of the poorer and weaker, we have a responsibility
to protest in the name of universal freedom. – Nelson Mandela*

Sampa Akter works twelve hours a day at a garment factory in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, sewing garments destined for retail stores around the world. Earning only ninety-five US dollars per month, Sampa works to support her disabled brother, her sister and their parents (Frayner, 2020). Sampa is one of the millions of workers that are the backbone of Bangladesh's textile factories, which are responsible for the majority of the country's exports. The garment that Sampa creates in Dhaka, Bangladesh may be sent to a warehouse in Europe, shipped to a company in Australia, and then purchased by a Canadian consumer. The impact of the individual garment created within Bangladesh's garment industry is a part of a global supply chain. Bangladesh's garment industry is the second largest in the world, only second to China's (Masum, 2016). Considering the progression of manufacturing and population growth, Bangladesh's impact on the global textile industry is substantial. It accounts for about eighty-two percent of Bangladesh's export revenue and is critical to the economy. Sewing machine operators like Sampa are forced to work extensive hours with inadequate compensation (Sakamoto et al., 2019). Workers like Sampa endure hazardous factory conditions and gruelling hours of operation. Furthermore, over 90% of garment workers are women, who in many cases support their network and live from paycheck to paycheck with scarce unemployment benefits and poor health and safety regulations (Yang, 2004). In many cases, these

workers must provide for their families, and often, children are unlawfully required to work in order to make a liveable income. These discrepancies are a result of domestic shortcomings in policy, labour and commerce within the country. Yet, the exploitation of workers in Bangladesh supersedes these shortcomings within the country. Rather, it is the beginning of a supply chain that has redefined the global world order in trade and commerce. This phenomenon is known as, “globalization.”

The phenomenon of globalization has created a new world order of which there is no consensus. This is due to globalization playing a part both in the world’s biggest successes and in some of its biggest failures. Historically, Africa has been the region most exploited by international actors. During the years of colonialism, the world took its resources but gave back little in return. The expansion of power and territory at the expense of underdeveloped states paved the way for those in power to have an advantage during the integration of the economy, communication and trade. While colonialism and globalization differ by definition, they are similar in the sense that the powerful increase their profits and position at the expense of the poor (Basheer, 2015). Meanwhile, China's economic growth has been based on exports and manufacturing power and lifted several hundred million people out of poverty. China managed globalization carefully. The country was slow to open up its markets for imports and does not allow the entry of unpredictable capital into the country (Morrison, 2019). To those in favour of a global market economy, such as Martin Wolf, globalization has become a global movement toward the integration of communication, trade and economic mobility (2004). With a trend of trade liberalization and cooptation between states, there has been an influx of imports and exports that have fueled economic growth. Through globalization, countries

have also participated in global value chains (GVC's). Lee defines global value chains as a "network of labour and production processes whose end result is a finished commodity" (2010). While items were predominately manufactured in the country where they would be then sold, globalization has led to goods being produced in multiple countries. Value is added to the goods in each phase of the manufacturing process and results in more than just tangible goods being traded between countries (World Bank, 2020). In turn, economic integration through globalization has had an international influence on governments, the environment and societies. According to Kabir, Singh and Ferrantino,

"The [textile and clothing] sector is one of the pillars of GVC's and has emerged as a robust driver of the trade-led industrialization in emerging and developing economies. The growth of global [textile and clothing] trade was accelerated by the abolition of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) in 2005, which had previously restricted market access of developing-country products to high-income countries, as well as by unilateral and multilateral trade liberalizations. This development has created new trade and investment opportunities in developing countries and has enabled their participation in global [textile and clothing] value chains" (2019).

Global value chains have led to the integration of global firms, suppliers and other actors that make up the creation and distribution of textiles and clothing. However, these global chains have not created value for all actors that have participated in the phenomenon of globalization. While value is delivered to consumers in the Global North, the livelihood of workers in developing nations employed by global supply chains needs improvement. Thus, the development of globalization within the textile industry has created an

imbalance of winners and losers in the global community. Since the birth of colonialism, the relationship between the Global North and the Global South has evolved to the latter being exploited for the benefit of the former. In the new age of global integration through trade, commerce and communication, these imbalances have created a hierarchical structure that is difficult to transform.

The influx of trade, economization and state development has led to wealthy states exploiting others for cheap labour and resources. One industry that is reflective of the relationship between globalization and imbalanced, global development is the fashion and textile industry. Multinational corporations based in wealthy states have continued the dynamic of exploitation that has existed for decades with the help of globalization. An exemplification of a state that has been exploited by this dynamic system is Bangladesh. Several states in the Global North and respective multinational corporations have sourced labour and resources from the country due to the benefits that they incur from doing so. According to Fathi, over four million people are employed in Bangladesh's textile factories. This means that one in four Bangladeshi's makes their living from working within the globalized textile industry (2020). Globally, many corporations depend on these textile factories and their workers in order to sustain themselves. Meanwhile, unfair wages and inhumane living conditions are only some of the issues that the country has had to face due to a dependency on this industry and its export-led economy (Begum and Shamsuddin, 1998). With little intervention by the state, the corporations or the factory owners, socio-economic injustices in Bangladesh have been able to continue. The importance of capitalist gains and emphasis on trade has resulted in a lack of humanity and fair practices being prioritized. Currently, eighty

percent of all Bangladesh's foreign currency earnings come from the textile industry (Ali and Habib, 2012). This has led to political and economic dependency on this industry.

This paper examines the implications that globalization has had on the textile industry in Bangladesh. Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative reasoning from past discourse, this study considers the effects that an increasingly globalized landscape has had on the state. Moreover, a qualitative perspective will be employed to frame the problem as not only economic, but socio-political as well. Firstly, globalization and trade liberalization will be defined and conceptualized. A comprehensive literature review will be conducted employing past quantitative, qualitative and theoretical research regarding Bangladesh's textile industry and the impact of globalization as a whole. The force of neoliberal globalization on the Global North and Global South is evident when evaluating its impact on Bangladesh. Methodologically, a case will be made for the reasoning behind selecting Bangladesh as a case study. Furthermore, context will be provided regarding globalization and the evolution of the textile industry. As Bangladesh rests at the center of this discourse, globalization has made an impact on the way that garments are created, bought and sold all over the world. Lastly, the case of Bangladesh will be specifically analyzed by reviewing the consequences the state has incurred due to the globalized textile industry. With the unique and impactful presence it possesses, the argument will be made that Bangladesh has been impacted by economic and societal exploitation through the growth of the global economy. *As a result of globalization, uneven economic growth has negatively affected development, as can be seen through the textile industry in Bangladesh.* The question of whether those who work in the textile industry have been targets of inequality due to a globalized marketplace will

be analyzed and discussed. Finally, observations will be made on recommendations for the current globalized climate and how it directly affects workers in Bangladesh's textile industry.

CHAPTER TWO: DEFINING GLOBALIZATION

How one depicts the consequences of globalization begins with how the term is defined. Generally speaking, the concept of globalization is overwhelmingly broad. In fact, there is no one definition that has been agreed upon by academics. Some scholars have subscribed to a literal definition while others have opted for a more theoretical synopsis of the meaning of globalization. For example, a theoretical perspective on globalization includes socio-cultural, geographic and historical explanations for the phenomenon. Although the sensation of globalization gained traction around the year 1980, both the definition and the emergence of globalization itself evolved over years of global interconnectedness. Accredited English philosopher, Jeremy Bentham, coined the word international in the 1780s as, "the concept caught hold because it resonated with a growing trend of the day, namely, the rise of nation-states and cross-border transactions between them" (Scholte, 2002). This may have included interactions such as travel and the evolution of cross-border trade. Beginning in the late twentieth century, the contemporary ideation of globalization evolved as a unique phenomenon.

In general terms, globalization is defined as, "the process by which businesses or other organizations develop international influence or [begin] operating on an

international scale” (Simpson and Weiner, 1989). However, acknowledging the ever-changing impact of globalization on institutions, commerce and individuals, the definition of globalization can be widened to encompass these effects. As globalization has evolved, certain features must be redefined to include the impact that globalization has had beyond trade and commerce. In other words, to have a definition that is inherently literal does not encompass the humanistic components of the phenomenon. Globalization has created a system of interdependence among countries, individuals and multi-national organizations that interact in an economic, sociological and political way. Thus, a local event may impact the lives of individuals in other parts of the world. The connection of societies that globalization has strengthened, as well as the structural and institutional challenges that trickle down to individuals make up the forces of globalization. Globalization can therefore be defined as, *the increased interconnectedness of states, businesses and people through operations, trade, labour and commerce*. The main component of this definition is not shifting focus away from the connection through commerce, but the addition of connection through individuals and experiences due to an increasingly globalized climate. Therefore, the impact of globalization is just as much socio-political as it is economic.

The term globalization appears to be a broadly appealing, neutral term for the current state of trade openness, foreign investments and economic growth. To many, economic transactions, foreign direct investments and the number of imports and exports being traded by states can quantify globalization. The movement toward greater economic openness and interconnectedness depicts the potential for globalization to unite

countries regardless of language, culture or even conflict. However, in order to fully understand the complexity of outcomes due to globalization, one must consider a sociological point of view. Considering the ability of globalization to bring countries, individuals and economies together, one would assume that there has been a positive correlation between living conditions, economic prosperity and individual rights. Nevertheless, global economic transactions have a much broader impact on developing nations. The lives of individuals within participating countries have been forever changed by the emergence of a thriving global economy. An important distinction to the broad definition of globalization is neoliberal globalization. Neoliberal globalization depicts an economic model that emphasizes free markets and free trade. In turn, neoliberal globalization emphasizes, decreased government regulation, privatization and the lowering of barriers to international trade and investment (Sniegocki, 2008). Foreign direct investments have allowed for the corruption of governments, international trade policies have led to the suffering of local business operations, and the influx of gross domestic product outputs have led to a climate of overworked and underpaid labourers. These consequences of the increasingly globalized economy are most prevalent in nations that have been historically marginalized and exploited.

A consequence of the globalization phenomenon has been the emergence of cooperation and trade policy between states. This phenomenon has been defined as *trade liberalization*. Trade liberalization depicts the shift towards the encouragement of free trade through the reduction of tariffs and other relevant barriers. The transit of goods, people and resources has become easy, regardless of where they are sourced or where they are going. This occurrence is generally perceived as the driving force behind

globalization (Lee, 2005). In the age of global development, the influx of goods and services moving across borders has been the propulsion for economic integration between states. These changes have led to the creation of a global economy, the integration of trade policies, manufacturing and outsourcing production. Outsourcing has been particularly significant when dealing with global economic integration and liberalizing trade. Multinational corporations have emerged as catalysts for economic interdependence between developed and underdeveloped nations. While these transformations have led to positive economic growth, several scholars have deemed trade liberalization as a point of contention in the context of globalization. Some academics are critical of the impact that trade liberalization has had on underdeveloped states that have been impacted by economic liberalization coupled with globalization. Some of these consequences include wage inequality, unemployment, and a lack of sustainable and equitable business practices by employers that do not adhere to laws and policies. The exploitation of workers in underdeveloped states has been depicted as a “race to the bottom,” concerning employment conditions and labour standards. De-industrialization and marginalization of low-income countries have led to an increase in global poverty, inequality, and degradation of the environment (United Nations, 2020). While liberalizing trade has interwoven the state economies, it has often been to the benefit of economic giants and monopolized corporations. For trade liberalization to have a positive impact in the current economic climate, reformation is needed to balance the scales of globalization.

In recent decades, states have evolved alongside the rapid growth of the world economy due to globalization. This growth has been driven, in part, by the progression of

trade liberalization between states. The development of trade can be accredited to innovations in technology, trends of outsourcing, as well as collaborative efforts by governments to reduce trade barriers through policy and a reduction of tariffs. Select developing countries have broadened their economies to take full advantage of the opportunities for economic development through trade. However, many developing countries have not had the opportunity to be a part of global economic growth in the same manner as developed states. According to the International Monetary Fund, “remaining trade barriers in industrial countries are concentrated in the agricultural products and labour-intensive manufactures in which developing countries have a comparative advantage” (2001). This includes several multinational corporations outsourcing their manufacturing to developed nations, as well as benefiting from geographical assets and resources. This framework is consistent with the current textile industry and the attributes of outsourcing that corporations employ to exploit labour and trade policies. Multi-national corporations outsourcing their production to underdeveloped states provide a monetary benefit, as products are made quickly and for cheaper. Competition amongst factory owners and countries stipulates an incentive for countries and respective corporations to keep their prices low and production value high. Further development to trade liberalization in these sectors would create greater opportunities for prosperity for poorer countries while also benefiting the industrial countries themselves.

The development of globalization, trade liberalization and outsourcing labour has particularly been consequential to Bangladesh and other underdeveloped states. While an influx of trade liberalization has led to a greater amount of imports and exports, there has been unevenness in the benefit of trade between nations. Some trade agreements are

unilateral, while others are multilateral in nature. Yet, in the age of globalization, it is common for one state or corporation to benefit at the expense of underdeveloped nations. Trade liberalization has therefore split the world into two categorizations: the “Global North” and the “Global South.” Trade liberalization has had an impact on distribution for countries in the Global North, which have the advantage of economic development, regulations and skilled labour. Meanwhile, countries in the Global South bear the burden of underdevelopment and a lack of regulatory policies that result in unskilled labourers. According to Robbins, in the Global North, the Stolper-Samuelson theorem predicts that trade liberalization leads to a rise in relative wages while leading to a fall in relative wages in the South (2003). The system can be compared to a scale, where the weight of trade and exports weigh heavily on countries in the Global South while raising the wealth of the corporations that have outsourced their production and distribution. Consequently, Global North countries stay in a position of power, with the resources and equity to take the power away from low-skilled labourers and influence foreign governments.

Globalization and trade liberalization have been undoubtedly influential in the growth of the global economy. Yet, the many consequences of globalization have continued to be examined by academics. Between two countries, it is impossible for liberalization through reciprocal exchange of market access to improve the terms of trade of both countries (Robbins, 2003). This is commonly due to poor labour practices and government regulations, as well as interference from the corporations themselves. Moreover, the top-down consequences of globalization, such as cheaper labour markets and the lack of local business, are consequences of a rise in industrial productivity (Höllerer, Walgenbach and Drori, 2017). To repair the current economic climate fuelled

by globalization, it will require efforts from governments, corporations and institutions. Those in positions of power in the public and private sectors have the opportunity to create a shift in how products are manufactured and distributed. However, the power is also in the hands of the consumer. Societally, the purchasing power of the individual has become significant in repairing global issues. If one chooses to buy products sustainably, rather than opting for convenience, corporations will have the financial pressure to change their means of operation. According to Harrington, corporate social responsibility has shifted to value sustainable development and labour concerns, opposed to the rise of globalization and multinational corporations (2011). In response, individuals, as well as global organizations, governments and businesses, have slowly started to make these necessary changes. The World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) is one such organization working against sweatshops and unethical sourcing. Students, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and many others have held protests time and again against corporate giants indulging in unethical sourcing (WFTO, 2012). However, there is more work to do when it comes to the textile industry.

LITERATURE REVIEW: BANGLADESH AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Knowledge of globalization and the distinct impact it has had on individual states allows for a better understanding of the consequences of uneven development. In order to understand the impact of globalization on the textile industry in Bangladesh specifically,

one can review past literature that notes the challenges and successes of globalization. There has been an influx on literature revolving around the specific environmental, economic and societal implications of the textile industry in recent years. With the topic becoming more visible in the international community, both qualitative and quantitative analysis has been completed to better understand the multifaceted components of this phenomenon. Within this literature review, these exemplifications of these qualitative and quantitative analyses have been selected for examination. A theoretical approach to the unevenness of development on a global scale, coined by Joseph Stiglitz, will be highlighted in order to demonstrate the need for globalized reform. The specific challenges facing the textile industry will then be introduced, as an effort to understand the impact globalization has had on Bangladesh. Following this narrative, a broader lens will be placed on the textile industry as a whole, and the actors that are involved in the current state of the textile industry. Finally, an alternative argument in favour of globalization and the impact it has had on the textile industry will be taken into consideration.

Joseph Stiglitz, a prominent economist and academic, has focused his attention on the phenomenon of globalization. In the present day, globalization is difficult to ignore, and Stiglitz depicts its prevalence within the book, "Making Globalization Work." In this particular text, Stiglitz focuses on the disparities that are created in developing countries as a result of a globalized economy. While considering the international flow of ideas and knowledge, sharing of culture, and global civil society, Stiglitz argues that in order to make globalization work, reforms must be made to balance the scale of development (Stiglitz, 2007). Within the initial chapter of the text, Stiglitz references global

governance reports and denounces,

“The current process of globalization is generating unbalanced outcomes, both between and within countries. Wealth is being created, but too many countries and people are not sharing in its benefits. They also have little or no voice in shaping the process. Seen through the eyes of the vast majority of women and men, globalization has not met their simple and legitimate aspirations for decent jobs and a better future for their children” (2007).

Stiglitz recognizes the abundance of poverty that has continued to exist in developing states as a result of globalization. While countries in the Global North continue to get richer, states in the Global South remain economically stagnant as a result of the hierarchical nature of global governance and multi-national corporations. This trend of neoliberalism has been politically disempowering to sovereign states with developing economies (Mittleman, 2002). Stiglitz acknowledges that this problem is pervasive and will be difficult to change. Yet, he also acknowledges that there is impertinent need for reform. Several recommendations are made in order to create an even playing field to deter negative effects of globalization. Some of these recommendations include foreign assistance and debt relief, fair trade, environmental protection and reformed global governance institutions (Stiglitz, 2007). In order to achieve a new world balance, global economic reform and a new social contract between developed and developing states should be taken seriously by those with the power to influence this change.

Stiglitz exemplifies a theoretical approach to the downsides of globalization that can be exemplified through the textile industry in Bangladesh. The approach taken by

Stiglitz within “Making Globalization Work” signifies the unevenness in the current state of globalization. The current economic, political and social paradigm that exists in Bangladesh is an exemplification of unevenness in development as a result of globalization. The relationship that Stiglitz describes creates an archetype for the argument of Bangladesh’s stagnated economic development via the textile industry. Although not directly focusing on the country of Bangladesh, the book utilizes similar examples of exploitation in recent years. Many of these examples include similar attributes and consequences that can be seen in Bangladesh, although there are specific characteristics that exist within each example. Overall, there is a overwhelming trend of exploitation of resources and labour between the Global North and the Global South. These negative effects of globalization that are theoretically explained by Joseph Stiglitz in, “Making Globalization Work” depict the correlation between stagnant economic development and labour exploitation in Bangladesh.

Within the article, “Textile Industries in Bangladesh and Challenges of Growth,” Islam, Khan and Islam depict the importance of the textile industry in Bangladesh to the stability of the countries economy. As the textile industry is the state’s greatest contributor to the national GDP, it is necessary to their growth. Contrary to “Making Globalization Work,” this text focuses in on the textile industry itself and its connections to the exploitative nature of globalization rather than the theoretical archetype of global imbalance. Islam, Khan and Islam state that,

“this industry is facing great challenges in its growth rate. The major reasons for these challenges can be the global recession, unfavorable trade policies, internal security concerns, the high cost of production due to increase in the energy costs,

different safety issues etc.” (2013).

The authors recognize the issues that Bangladesh and its prominent contribution to the textile industry have faced in light of economic growth are related to factors of globalization. On its face, the ability for Bangladesh to contribute to the global marketplace through the textile industry seems substantial. However, the authors note the relevant costs that the country has been burdened with that stagnate their socio- economic growth. While the textile industry creates a great amount of revenue and exports, little is seen for the workers laboring in the factories, institutions or societies. This uneven growth is therefore only sustainable if the system stays dependent on multinational corporations and other global partnerships. The article also adds value through its descriptive historiography on the Bangladeshi textile industry. From artisans creating traditional clothing to its historical relationships with Great Britain and Pakistan, the authors describe how the textile industry has come to fruition through global partnerships. Further in the text, the authors depict the challenges for growth that Bangladesh will experience as a product of a more globalized economy. These challenges include a lack of research and development, a lack of modernization through industrialization, increasing the cost of production and a lack of new investment to name a few. Solutions to these problems range from foreign policy initiatives to domestic tariff policies. Economic, political and social changes will ultimately need to be made to improve the efficiency and fairness of the textile industry.

The article not only depicts Bangladesh’s reliance on the globalized textile industry, but also the ways in which this industry has hindered their economic, political and social growth. With an influx of globalized practices and the reliance on the global

market, Bangladesh's textile industry is in need of reform in order to not only increase fairness, but also efficiency. Developing nations have been left behind in areas such as fair trade policies and standards of living. According to Osmani, growth of the economy and income in Bangladesh was accompanied by a growth in income inequality as well as poverty (2004). Without the proper intervention and attention to these areas, it will be difficult to improve without a top-down restructuring. Some recommendations that the authors make include raising the cost of production and attacking the current political instability and corruption within at the state level. These interventions would not only create more stability in the state, but a better economy for those working within and outside the prominent textile industry. Thus, this article depicts the contextual relationship between globalization and the textile industry in Bangladesh. This includes both internal and external issues that the state is facing in terms of sustainable growth. Islam, Khan and Islam offer valuable contributions to the argument that Bangladesh is in need of reform due to the consequences of globalization.

Subsequently, the piece by Curran and Nadvi entitled, "Shifting Trade Preferences and Value Chain Impacts in the Bangladesh Textiles and Garment Industry," focuses in on the geography of production and trade regimes as a result of globalization. This article depicts the garment industry in a broader focus in the interim of the text, followed by a deeper look into the "leading least developed global garment manufacturer, Bangladesh" (Curran and Nadvi, 2015). The authors include external influences on the textile industry, including world leaders such as the EU, China and the United States. Moreover, independent from the internalities that exist in Bangladesh, the article focuses on outside influences that influence the economic and political contingencies of trade.

These influences are impertinent to note as many trade agreements, tariffs and policies revolve around these economic superpowers. Rules of origin and rules of transformation are noted as an important part of the supply chain that exists within the country. Rules about the sourcing of materials and manufacturing of certain products can be restricting to the industry as a whole. With certain regulations and policies limiting the opportunity for growth and sustainability, it is difficult for these industries to evolve with the global community. Non-governmental organizations and international bodies, such as the International Labour Organization, have been critical of restrictions put on developing nations. However, there is a greater need for affirmative action by these bodies to implement changes that benefit states like Bangladesh. Furthermore, the article outlines positive changes and further solutions that can be implemented in order to create a more even playing field for developing nations. This includes actions being taken by global superpowers, such as the EU, amending their trade preferences and policies. The authors inadvertently acknowledge that the current state of globalization and the textile industry is complex, and it will take the initiative of several different actors to create a sustainable model for development. The article by Curran and Nadvi provides a unique view on the logistical features of the textile industry in Bangladesh. Moreover, the external influences that are partners in this industry are critical to note when analyzing the effect of globalization on developing states. This article focuses on aspects of trade and how they have uniquely affected the textile industry in Bangladesh. Although the article is not constrained to discussing aspects of globalization, several of the article's conclusions can be attributed to an increasingly globalized economy. This includes the acknowledgement of the importance of others states and their decisions, global governance institutions and

global trade policies. Moreover, the article includes relevant data to analyzing the current state of trade between Bangladesh and other states. In the words of the authors, “[the] findings suggest that institutional factors, including trade regimes and rules of origin, can also directly impact the upgrading prospects of local producers” (2015). This includes a detailed analysis of imports and exports, as well as GDP. The data and argument in the article depicts the relevancy of globalization and its consequences on developing nations like Bangladesh in a detailed manner. Globalization and Bangladesh’s Textile Industry 7

Lastly, the article, “Impact of Globalization and Trade Openness on Economic Growth in Bangladesh.” by Muhammad Meraj, depicts an optimistic viewpoint on globalization in relation with Bangladesh. The article is a quantitative, empirical study that rests on the argument that globalization is the key to growth in Bangladesh. Meraj implores the causal relationship between the trend of globalization and the economic growth that state of Bangladesh has experienced in recent years. According to Meraj, "after the end of martial coups in 1982, the policy makers of Bangladesh adopted more liberalized trade policies which provided a new dimension to the economy. This turned out to be the right pathway for economic growth..." (2013). In order to test this hypothesis, Meraj employs the Granger causality test to measure the relationship between economic growth (GDP) and imports and exports. Additionally, alternative data on GDP and trade liberalization in Bangladesh is utilized to demonstrate the economic growth that the country has undergone in recent years.

The author also looks to World Development Indicators, drawn from the World Bank, in order to depict the positive economic growth that the state has experienced. These data indicate a positive impact for globalization over trade and economic growth in

the least developed countries (LDCs) such as Bangladesh (2013). Methodologically, economic formulations and quantitative data are solely used to depict a level of economic growth that has existed within the country. With an increased emphasis on free trade and other components that have evolved with globalization, Meraj argues that this growth will continue to flourish and aid Bangladesh's development. Recommendations include stronger internal promotions of free trade policies, development of infrastructure and enhancing incentives. Overall, the author concludes that the current global climate has increased the level of efficiency and prosperity within the country of Bangladesh.

Although there is a consensus within the literature on the negative effect that globalization has had on Bangladesh's economy, Meraj offers a differing viewpoint on the opportunities for economic growth. While there is an opportunity for economic growth via a quantitative analysis, Meraj does not account for the social and political costs that are present as a result of market and trade liberalization. While trade liberalization has cultivated economic growth in developing countries, this growth has not improved the quality of societies due to it being uneven (Hanushek, 2013). While multi-national corporations are profiting much higher yields than the factory owners or political figures within the state, the textile industry is prominent and profitable. However, the individuals who are working within the factories do not see these profits. Many individuals who are taking part in precarious work are women and even children (Kameer and Mahmud, 2004). The study itself is purely quantitative without acknowledging the qualitative aspects that should be studied alongside the numeric data. Moreover, income distribution is a critical aspect of development that is not analyzed within the text. While Bangladesh has a high level of GDP and exports, the revenues

from industry, i.e. the textile industry, does not trickle down to the majority of the population. Although Meraj does not particularly single out the textile industry, they do acknowledge the high level of gross domestic product that Bangladesh exports and the financial gain they receive as a result. Political leaders, societal elites and factory owners yield high profits from globalization, yet workers see little income. Due to this structure, the country is stuck as being one of the least developed in the Global South. Their unique placement in the context of globalization has promise for development, but not with the current political, international and economic barriers that exist for the majority of the population. Therefore, although the quantitative analysis that Meraj carries out gives a well-rounded analysis on capital gains, it does not tell the full story of the effects of globalization on developing nations like Bangladesh.

CHAPTER THREE: WHY BANGLADESH? / METHODOLOGY

There is no academic consensus on whether or not globalization is a positive or negative phenomenon. However, within relevant scholarship on the effects globalization has on state development in the Global South, there is an overwhelming consensus on globalization having a negative impact. This is due to the current economic, political and international structures that have been put into place to navigate the globalized world. Popular within recent literature on globalization, these conclusions can be drawn due to both theoretical and empirical research that has been completed by academics for decades. Regarding this research, it is hypothesized that the more globalization flourishes in its current state; the more countries in the Global South will be exploited for their resources and labour. In other words, there is a causal effect between positive economic development in the Global North and socio-economic and political strife in developing countries such as Bangladesh. The persistence of growth in the global economy has led to a greater divide between the Global North and Global South, resulting in a global bourgeoisie (Arrighi, 2001). However, considering the correlation between globalization and the textile industry, the question becomes why the focus would be set on Bangladesh over other countries in the Global South? China, India and other countries with large textile and manufacturing sectors would prove to be relevant to this argument. Nonetheless, there are various aspects of Bangladesh's history, development and trade, which create a unique paradigm to study in the context of globalization.

Within this paper, the intricacies of globalization and its effect on the textile industry in Bangladesh are to be examined. But why is the country of Bangladesh so

significant? Various countries in the Global South have a long history of exploitation due to a trend of internationalization. Whether due to colonization, resource extraction or outsourcing manufacturing, there is a historic trend of uneven global development (Little, 2014). In recent years, the trends of exploitation have shifted with the trends of economic global development and a shift in technological developments. Past trends of exploitation, although still prevalent, have adjusted with the global climate centred on innovation. This has been described as a global divide in innovation, centred on the distribution to developed societies (Drori, 2010). In the 21st century, meeting the demands of production that have been outsourced by Western countries defines the unevenness in development. There is no greater exemplification of the current state of globalization than in the country of Bangladesh. The significance of the textile industry in Bangladesh cannot be overlooked when examining the impact of globalization on the textile industry. Bangladesh is one of the highest producers of textiles and apparel and accounts for the majority of the country's gross domestic product. Only second to the largest manufacturing giant in the world, China, the country of Bangladesh is the largest exporter of textiles across the globe. This is considering the disparity in population size, infrastructure and capacity. Considering the immense impact that Bangladesh has had on the textile industry and global economy, it is necessary to study the country further under the paradigm of globalization.

The case of Bangladesh exemplifies the unevenness in globalization and trade liberalization. This can be seen through the historical evolution of the textile industry within the country. The prominence of the textile industry in Bangladesh emerged around the 1970s to 1980s: alongside the rise of globalization. This timeline correlates with the

rise of economic integration and the liberalization of trade policies between states. In Bangladesh, the textile industry grew from one million dollars in apparel exports in 1978 to over five billion dollars in 2004. This amounted to 75% of the total export earning and 80% of manufacturing export earnings in Bangladesh (Ahmed, 2006). Today, within the first half of the 2021-22 fiscal year alone, Bangladesh's exports have reached 38.76 billion US dollars (Paul, 2021). Moreover, while the development of the textile industry in Bangladesh rose simultaneously with the rise of the globalization phenomenon and the introduction of global free trade policies, the textile industry stemmed from a rich history of trade and apparel within the country. Prefacing the economic growth that occurred alongside globalization, Bangladesh has a record of textiles and trade that dates back centuries. According to Sikder,

“Under Mughal rule, Bengal Subah was a midpoint of the worldwide muslin and silk trades during the 16th to 18th centuries. During the Mughal era, the most important center of cotton production was Bengal, particularly around its capital city of Dhaka, leading to muslin being called "daka" in distant markets such as Central Asia. Bengal also exported cotton and silk textiles to markets such as Europe, Indonesia and Japan. Bengal produced more than 50% of textiles and around 80% of silks imported by the Dutch from Asia, for example” (2019).

In later years, Bangladesh would continue to be a hub for trade and focus on other economic sectors, such as agriculture. However, the rise of globalization would put Bangladesh at the centre of the ready-made garment industry in years to come. The intervention of foreign corporations would lead to the current economic climate under which many Bangladeshi's live and work today. This history exemplifies the immense

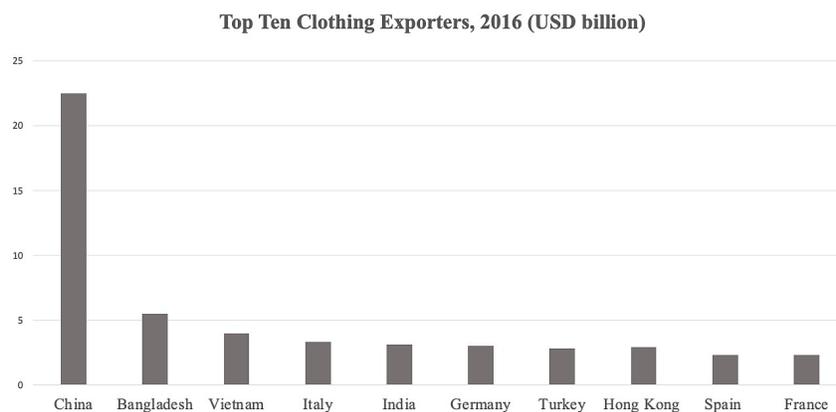
impact Bangladesh has had regarding the challenges it has faced due to globalization. The trend of globalization and outsourcing from developed states to underdeveloped states for cheap labour depicts a moral dilemma for those who contribute to this supply chain.

Today, Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry has grown to be one of the most prominent in the world, with several trade policies focused on Bangladesh's exports to countries in the Global North. The World Bank approximated the gross domestic product of Bangladesh grew to \$173.82 billion dollars by 2014, with \$31.2 billion of that generated by exports of ready-made garments (Rahman, 2014). Considering its undeniable impact over time, the apparel industry in Bangladesh remains a prominent example of the downside of globalization.

Methodologically speaking, the relationship between globalization and the textile industry in Bangladesh has a negative correlation. This is due to Bangladesh being dependent on the trends of globalization, as well as the policies and mobility of independent states. While there is counteracting research in the field of globalization, this research heavily relies on numerical data while disregarding several political and socio-economic truths that have been a result of globalization. As the global economy grows, new economies must continue to be able to emerge and develop (Dobson and Jacquet, 1998). The World Trade Organization and the Global Trade Alert Initiative have gathered data in statistical reports and other literary discourse. The data shows Bangladesh is the second largest exporter of garments in 2016, only second to China (WTO, 2016). Considering China's current economic position and fast economic development, this demonstrates the high output of goods compared and their respective economic position which is concurrent with the trends of globalization. This data can be seen in Figure 1.

This data further supports the disparity between Bangladesh's contribution to the global market and the lack of development within the state. Although Bangladesh has a very significant impact on the global textile industry, Bangladesh is still deemed as a developing state. According to the World Bank, Bangladesh was one of the poorest countries at its birth in 1971 (World Bank, 2021). Since then, Bangladesh continues to sit on the United Nations list of Least Developed Countries. By gathering relevant numeric data, one will be able to substantially prove the significance and consequences of the problems that Bangladesh is facing regarding its position in the globalized marketplace. This methodology will allow for a greater understanding of the complexities that come with globalization while still considering the economic growth potential that the state of Bangladesh has undergone. To solely rely on quantitative or qualitative data would exclude either the important numeric, statistical data or the cultural and societal implications of globalization in Bangladesh.

Figure 1:



*Pictograph taken from the Global Trade Alert Initiative via the World Trade Organization (2016)

While there is a consensus in research that suggests there are several downsides to globalization for developing states, there are potential limitations to this research that can be acknowledged. Firstly, primary data gathering will be difficult to achieve on a qualitative and quantitative level. Therefore, data will be extracted from previous studies to not exhaust the limitations of the study. Quantitatively, data will be collected from existing, reliable sources such as global governance institutions and official government websites. This includes data gathered and presented in reports from institutions such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization and World Bank. Considering the scope of this research is vast and encompasses several aspects of economic and state development, acquiring original research regarding exports and figures would be an arduous task. Qualitatively, original research in the form of surveying, interviewing, or first-hand observation could not be easily accomplished. In order to fully realize the concepts and socio-economic status of developing states, the human connection is important to signify. Through qualitative research, the contextual elements of globalization can be explored and considered within this argument. Thus, reasoning will be adopted from literature that is relevant to the current state of Bangladesh and the intricacies of the global textile industry. The research will be descriptive in nature, and rely on secondary data from peer-reviewed journal articles, international and national government-collected data and other written works. These methodologies will allow for a reasonable and detailed analysis in order to come to a distinct conclusion on the effects of globalization on developing states. Using these methods, the thesis and research question regarding the significance of globalization and the textile industry in Bangladesh can be reasonably and empirically answered.

CHAPTER FOUR: GLOBALIZATION AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Trends related to globalization have directly affected the evolution of the textile industry. Interconnected globalized capitalism, the challenge of sustainable development and the blurring of boundaries between the Global North and Global South have characterized globalization's relationship with the international development of ready-to-wear garments and textiles (Horner, 2019). Similar to other globalized industries, the textile industry is part of a capitalist global paradigm that relies on outsourced labour, multi-national partnerships and low-skilled labour. However, the textile industry carries a unique weight due to its economic impact on countries around the world. This global shift surrounding garments and textiles can be depicted as the "democratization of fashion," a term used to describe the decrease in barriers surrounding the globalization of buying and selling garments (Walsh, 1979). During the rise of industrialization and globalization, fashion went beyond utility and the latest trends. Garments depicted status, wealth, and culture, as they were dependent on geographical location and socio-cultural understanding. The technological and industrial revolution led to mechanical inventions such as the sewing machine, furthering the democratization of fashion through accessibility and efficiency. Through this process of innovation, multi-national corporations have been able to create policies of "little advertising, holding minimal inventory, and seeking to 'democratize fashion' by making innovative designs accessible to most incomes" (Linden, 2016). Due to the democratization of fashion, the ready-made garment and textile industry has seen a massive transformation in a short period of time. Although scalable and accessible, the transformative relationship between globalization

and the textile industry has come at a cost. High demand for accessible and affordable clothing has shifted the way in which garments are crafted and the impact they have on a global scale.

Globalization and the rise of multinational corporations have significantly transformed the world's labour and production markets. To retain a competitive advantage, many multinational corporations have outsourced to manufacturing facilities in developing nations. Most notable in the apparel space is Nike, which is well known for outsourcing the production of footwear to manufacturing plants in various countries (Strange and Magnani, 2017). This is done to utilize the availability of cheap and abundant labour, which remains relatively unprotected by government regulation or non-governmental organizations. Developing nations have become reliant on multi-national corporations in order to fuel their socio-economic system. Meanwhile, developed nations have become reliant on the unskilled labour that supports a plethora of products and services in the Global North (Smith, 2012). This interdependence has created a negative trajectory due to globalization, where countries in the Global North benefit at the expense of countries in the Global South. Companies may outsource their manufacturing to countries with the infrastructure to support their demand, such as large technology firms. Or, corporations may outsource their labour to states that provide a financial incentive due to a lack of fair wage legislation. This trend has been particularly apparent in the textile industry, considering rapidly changing fashion trends and the mechanization-resistant nature of fabric render apparel manufacturers are exceptionally reliant on human labour (Piore, 1997). As a result, multinational corporations, and the industrialized

nations in which they are based, have actively participated in the uneven globalization of the textile industry.

Since the birth of colonialism, the Global North and the Global South's relationship has evolved to the latter being compromised for the benefit of the former. This trend of economic exploitation has continued into the twenty-first century, with the introduction of new technologies and processes for the distribution of goods and services. One industry that is reflective of the relationship between globalization and global development is the ready-made garment and textile industry. A crucial component of the textile industry is the ready-made garment industry: an industry that has undergone transformation due to supply chains and consumer demand for "frequent assortment changes" and affordable prices (Li, Zhao, Shi & Price, 2014). While garments are created cheaply and worker's wages are low, multi-national corporations can get away with inflating the price of clothing, so long as it remains cheap in comparison to other high fashion brands. This movement toward democratized fashion transformed the landscape of where garments are sourced and how consumers purchase them across the globe.

According to Paulicelli and Clark,

"Fashion as a manufacturing industry would not exist without the textile industry that in turn was at the core of social, political and economic transformations that marked the early modernization of Europe in the eighteenth-century industrial revolution at the heart of colonialism and central to the consequent struggle for independence from colonial empires..." (2009).

With the textile industry's roots in colonialism and globalization, many states were

dependent on manufacturing goods for multi-national corporations. However, there are several states whose economies are still reliant on the garment industry. One of the most prominent states whose economic roots lie in the textile industry is Bangladesh. The prominence of the textile industry in Bangladesh is apparent through the workforce, infrastructure and the number of garments that are exported to well-known retailers all over the world. Although Bangladesh's economy is highly contingent on the textile industry, several other states take part in the industry as a whole. Countries such as China, India, Nigeria, Mexico and Japan are only a few countries that retain a similar model of textile production and exportation (Akinrinade and Ogen, 2008). Many of these countries have a similar pattern of growth when it comes to textiles, yet countries such as China have erupted into manufacturing powerhouses due to political and economic change. This growth has led to a new economic trajectory and diversification, while countries such as Bangladesh are still heavily reliant on foreign actors to keep their economies stable. These developments highlight the necessity for sustainable change in countries that are heavily contingent on textile exports.

The ready-made-garment industry has evolved and grown within the last few decades to value consumption over quality through the process of liberalization. Globalization has created a platform for capitalist consumption from countries all over the world. Through liberalized trade policies and greater interconnectedness between states, the flow of information, goods and services has become easier than ever before. This liberalized consumption has had a negative effect on the fashion industry and has led to the emergence of "fast fashion." The concept of fast fashion refers to a lack of diversity and individuality through the,

“...Manufacturing industry and a culture industry, in league with the power of the popular press, fashion magazines and images, photography and film, constructs and invents a “new” national narrative that inevitably and constantly relates to global issues of identity, production and consumption” (Paulicelli and Clark, 2009).

Throughout history, garments have superseded the means of utility but allowed for the expression of culture, diversity and individuality. Before the emergence of globalization and “fast fashion,” clothing was seen as an expression of craftsmanship, culture and class structures: from Victorian gowns to culturally rooted fabrics and patterns. With the onset of a global marketplace and global trends, the distinctiveness of cultural dress, tradition and ethnicity disappeared from the societal landscape in the industrialized world (Benetti, 2016). Traditionally, high fashion pieces have been curated by designers and sold at high prices to “elite” buyers. To make certain trends more available and affordable, brands began to replicate designs and utilize textiles that were easily accessible. Thus, designs lost their individuality and fashion began to lose its cultural diversity and originality. In other words, independent of the economic and political transformations in the fashion industry, the culture of fashion itself has become increasingly globalized.

Today, the textile industry reaches consumers on a massive scale due to globalization. Since the emergence of globalization in the 1980s and the support of the World Trade Organization in the 1990s, consumerism reached a new level when markets were created for global manufacturers (Antoshak, 2016). The creation of global value chains (GVC's) in the textile sector and their actors (i.e. institutions and firms) emerged

during this period as well, coming to fruition in the late 1970s to early 1980s (Mostafiz et al., 2021). As global value chains have been linked to the growth of the global economy and outsourcing production, their importance to the global textile industry is distinct. Although locally owned supply chains with high production values still exist and are popular with alternative consumers, a higher production value results in higher prices. A localized operation results in the product being confined to the region in which the textiles are produced and sold. Many textile operations, whether local or multi-national, opt for materials at a lower cost to reap the highest profit. This allows the consumer to buy more for less, keeping them up to date with the latest trends regardless of the quality and longevity of the garment (Bick Halsey and Ekenga, 2018). These trends are prevalent in states such as the US and the EU, while consumerism in developing states tends to value localized production of garments in their region. This trend follows the trend of disparity between the Global North and Global South, as buyers in developed countries reap the benefits of a globalized economy that favours them. Therefore, since the industrial revolution and the emergence of technological advancements, the marketplace has transformed into a platform for the overconsumption of goods and services.

The marketing of goods to consumers has created a network of individuals with immense buying power looking for desirable goods for the best price. Transnational apparel corporations such as Zara, H&M and several others have taken advantage of the globalized market in order to offer desirable garments at affordable prices. These corporations have been deemed as buyer-driven firms and have been deemed as “marketeers” over manufacturers (Linden, 2016). This is to depict their main role in designing and marketing garments rather than manufacturing them. Meanwhile, many of

these garments replicate intricate and original designs from artists and designers that have historically been available to those of high socio-economic status. Considering the global networks of retail stores positioned all over the world, these corporations have successfully created a demand for easily accessible and affordable fashion. For example, Zara is considered one of the pioneers of the fast fashion phenomenon, with 2259 Zara stores in 96 countries (Forbes, 2020). This has created a network of available styles that one could be wearing anywhere in the world and requires production on a massive scale. Considering the outsourced production of many of the garments sold to Western buyers, this creates a fault in the globalized supply chain.

Economic integration through globalization has had an international influence on governments, the environment, and society. In recent years, the textile industry has faced heightened international scrutiny due to allegations of sweatshop practices, unsafe working conditions, unlivable wages, unreasonable hours, lethal accidents, and both physical and mental abuses by supervisors in developing nations around the world (Caleca, 2014). Concerns for textile workers in Bangladesh are heightened when tragedy arises, such as several garment factory fires that have occurred for years (French, 2013). The Rana Plaza tragedy, which I discuss more fully in the next chapter, was one of the most prominent disasters to Bangladesh's textile industry. This disaster resulted in a light being shed on the many ethical dilemmas that exist within the country pertaining to the textile industry. Labour standards are not ensured by policy within Bangladesh, nor by the numerous partnerships in the Global North. However, the negative impact of the textile industry has gone beyond those directly living and working in precarious

conditions. The textile industry has had an indirect environmental and socio-economic effect on individuals' lives in both the Global North and Global South. While the modern concept of "fast fashion" offers consumers an opportunity to buy more clothes for less, those who work in or live near textile manufacturing facilities bear a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards, labour concerns and poverty. Negative aspects of globalization have been present "from the growth of water-intensive cotton to the release of untreated dyes into local water sources, to worker's low wages and poor working conditions; the environmental and social costs involved in textile manufacturing are widespread" (Bick, Halsey and Ekenga, 2018). The globalized textile industry has also created an opportunity for wastefulness. The ability to buy more for less has caused Western buyers to be indulgent in their purchases, alongside technological advancements that make it easier to purchase garments with the click of a button. Many of these garments are created with unsustainable materials, such as polyester. The economic, social and environmental costs of fast fashion are not only prevalent to those who are directly connected to the production and distribution of read-made garments, but also to those who purchase and dispose of them. This cycle has created immense waste and remains impactful when discussing environmental concerns such as climate change. Thus, the rapid expansion fashion and textile industry has multifaceted consequences when it comes to those who partake in fast fashion. While the textile industry has grown exponentially over the last few decades, the benefits of high volume at low prices have a significant cost.

In recent years, there has been pressure on leaders in the textile industry to take ownership of their practices of outsourcing and sustainability. However, some of this

pressure has come from Western buyers: the individuals whom these processes were created to benefit and cater to. Industry professionals and activists have suggested that if the buyers paid a higher price for clothing from retail chains then worker's wages could increase as a result (Curran and Nadvi, 2015). However, even though buyers may be able to front an additional cost for clothing and related products, the competitiveness of the current marketplace has made it difficult for companies to raise their prices. Furthermore, competition between global manufacturing superpowers, such as the United States and China, bring forth another competitive dynamic in the marketplace. Although there is pressure from buyers to support locally made goods, as well as domestic designers and businesses, many corporations opt for the most economically viable option.

Through globalization, the fashion and textile industry has grown exponentially since the late twentieth century. Globally, 80 billion pieces of new clothing are purchased each year, translating to \$1.2 trillion annually for the global fashion industry (Bick, Halsey and Ekenga, 2018). This volume trumps the necessity for the use of sustainable materials, ethical sourcing and fair wages. The lack of attention to these injustices results in most of the clothing bought and worn in the Global North being manufactured in the Global South by precarious workers. Many of the garments are shipped to countries in the Global North and purchased by consumers that may not know the dynamics of their purchasing power. Ultimately, multi-national companies have a duty to ensure ethical behaviour in the fashion and textile industry. Large corporations with viable resources provide the orders for the factory owners, which trickle down to the precarious workforce. Global leadership, including global governance institutions like the ILO, has

supported the transition to ensuring ethical sourcing and accountability (2014). Yet, multi-national companies source materials from vulnerable states, are in charge of the shipping and distribution of goods back to warehouses and marketing these products to consumers. Although buyers should be educated on whether products are ethically and fairly produced, the betterment of the workforce rests on reform, both global and local.

While there is nearly a consensus on the detriment that globalization has had on the textile industry in developing countries, it is not unanimous. The argument stating globalization has positively impacted the textile industry on an international and national scale exists within the literature. These include the influx of economic viability through competition, job creation and fundamental policies for the protection of workers. Acknowledging the positive impacts that exist in the globalized textile industry, many of the criticisms raise the question of fairness and sustainability. Furthermore, the unevenness of development is a fact that cannot be overlooked when discussing the impact of globalization on textile production. While some states have protectionist policies for workers and fair minimum wages, other nations, such as Bangladesh, are not as fortunate. The competitive nature of the globalized textile industry has led to the allowance of unlivable incomes and unsanctionable practices. Although it is important to acknowledge the economic growth that has occurred due to globalization, it does not mitigate the costs that come along with it. According to Tandon and Reddy, globalization has had a positive impact on the textile exports of India. Countries producing and exporting textiles have increased foreign direct investment in spinning and weaving equipment (2013). Yet, the comparative cost advantage in domestic and international markets and the need to still implement bringing structural changes to meet the needs of

the global stringent buyer are acknowledged. While the globalized textile industry brings employment, investment and liberalized trade, it creates a network of unsustainable and exploitative practices in developing nations.

After the rise of globalization and the global market shift, the garment and textile industry has followed and advanced trends of mass exploitation that had been building for decades. The poor treatment of workers was not a new phenomenon that arose during the period of globalization but has been emphasized by the apparel industry. During this period, consumers were introduced to transnational corporations, cyber technology, and electronic mass media, creating new channels for the textile industry to grow. These forces have profoundly changed the way fashion is produced, marketed, sold, bought, worn, and thrown away (Ledezma, 2017). Many of these changes have created a climate for global winners and losers. This state of global inequality describes the disparity between the Global North and the Global South, with the Global South being underdeveloped in the age of globalization. This has been described as a “race to the bottom,” when countries lower their labour standards, environmental standards, or tax rates in order to attract foreign capital (Rahma and Rakhmawati, 2019). Yet, there are changes that international and domestic actors have attempted to implement to eradicate poverty caused by the textile industry through programmes, recommendations and affirmative action. As previously stated, governments in the Global North and subsequent Western multi-national corporations have a duty to ensure that labour, materials and commodities are ethically sourced and conditions are met. With these challenges in mind, some leading actors in the fashion and apparel industry are not only changing how clothing is produced, but also how it is marketed and sold to the modern consumer.

However, to yield the highest profit, this has traditionally not been the case. Many of the structural components of the textile industry have yet to be challenged by corporate leaders. With these ethical issues coming to light, there has been pressure from external sources to ensure that outsourcing labour and manufacturing processes are fair and sustainable. This includes public opinion, global governance institutions and an emphasis by some big businesses on corporate social responsibility practices. Only when these challenges are met will there be movement toward an ethical execution of globalized fashion.

CHAPTER FIVE: THE CASE OF BANGLADESH

On April 24th 2013, the Rana Plaza factory complex near Dhaka, Bangladesh caught fire and collapsed killing more than one thousand people and injuring over two thousand. Nine textile factories, as well as several surrounding businesses, were destroyed. The Rana Plaza disaster was not only devastating to Bangladesh, but it was also statistically the deadliest disaster ever recorded in the garment industry's history (Smith, 2015). After the disaster made headlines internationally, workers from around the world would speak out in solidarity with the disparate workers and their families that were injured in the disaster. Coupled with their grief was the knowledge that cracks had been discovered in the building's foundation and the recommendation for the evacuation and closure of the structure (Rahman, 2014). Furthermore, when presented with the choice between dangerous conditions and losing their job, almost all Bangladeshi textile workers chose the former. The demanding nature of the textile industry took precedent over the safety of the workers, and operations continued as usual for the day. This called

into question the demanding nature of the global economy and how its health relies on the exploitation of workers for low wages. When the value of production overtook the value of human life, the necessity for reform became shockingly apparent. However, even considering the outpouring of disdain for the dangerous and unfair conditions that factory workers are made to endure, no effort was made to mitigate the injustices that were faced by textile workers in underdeveloped countries. This tragedy speaks volumes about the precarious nature of the textile industry in Bangladesh.

The state of Bangladesh contributes to a climate that values profiteering over the textile workforce. As the textile industry is the main driver of exports and results in the majority of the country's GDP, the elite prioritizes profits over the chain of production. During the early years of globalization, the textile industry began to flourish within the country of Bangladesh. In response, the Bangladeshi government refocused their economic strategy from socialist to capitalist policies. This was achieved through valuing participation from the private sector and foreign investment in the growing textile industry. The growth of global interconnectedness provided a framework for the textile industry to grow as well, leading the government to offer duty-free imports of textile machinery and materials and other financial incentives (Nazim, 2014). Political and economic leaders in Bangladesh began to benefit from the globalization of class relations by employing textile workers for low wages and precarious conditions. Due to these disparities, the International Labour Organization (ILO) "Improving Working Conditions in the Ready-Made Garment Sector" to improve the circumstances under which textile workers were forced to live and work (ILO, 2013). Alongside an investment into the

textile and ready-made garment industry, the initiative was meant to improve the safety of everyday operations.

Since the rise of globalization in the late 1970s to early 1980s, trade unions have ignored their responsibility to textile workers in Bangladesh. The textile workforce grew at a quick pace, causing many economic, political and societal changes for labourers as a result. Amongst these changes was the opportunity for textile workers to organize to protect themselves from these shifts. One approach workers have attempted, to improve the standards of health and safety regulations, wages and relative working hazards is unionization. However, major labour unions chose to represent government interests in Bangladesh rather than those of workers (Rahman and Langford, 2012). Textile workers have come together with shared grievances over the conditions they are met with while working in the industry, yet have found no success in creating a safer workplace. Upon attempting to unionize, workers continue to be met with anti-worker sentiments and their requests are not taken seriously. Furthermore, when the formation of unions is successful, registering them with the government is often denied (Connell, 2020). However, this does not mean that workers in the textile industry are satisfied with this outcome. There have been significant displays of unrest surrounding the textile industry, including the

“labour unrest in the industrial district of Ashulia [which] led to the temporary closure of 60 factories, firing of 1600 garment workers, and the arrest and detention of at least 35 workers and labour organizers. Negotiations for a new minimum wage agreement for the sector were overdue, and factory-based grievances over working conditions and late payments coalesced in October 2016

over the death of a garment worker in Ashulia, seemingly from overwork”
(Ashraf and Prentice, 2019).

Very little change has resulted from these acts of contention by textile workers. Elites chose to disengage from responsibility by reacting with disciplinary measures including firings. Meanwhile, the government took the side of the textile elites, allowing for the arrest of insubordinate workers. As many textile workers are not in the place to risk their livelihood, many do not participate in these displays. Challenges and alternatives for workers in the global South are still mediated through local and national processes, offering labour important avenues for organizing resistance (Mosoetsa and Williams, 2012). However, global economic forces are crucial in determining the conditions for labour, as these forces have a considerable amount of control over global labour standards and policy. In order for the conditions under which textile workers live and work to improve, an intervention must be made into the local and global political climate that surrounds the global textile industry.

The fashion and textile industry has had a profound effect on the country of Bangladesh's exports and its position in the global economy. Yet, this position has resulted in the nation remaining underdeveloped and challenged by globalization. Not unlike other states in the Global South, Bangladesh has shouldered the burden of globalization and dependency on multi-national corporations to fuel their economic growth through textile exports. In Bangladesh, apparel is a huge commodity and the country's greatest export. Many monopolized, multi-national companies have employed Bangladeshi factories to manufacture textiles and garments, making up a large percentage of their gross domestic product. Conversely, one in four Bangladeshi's makes their living

from working in the textile industry (Granath, 2016). Moreover, approximately forty million people are connected to the global textile industry in Bangladesh (Sharma, 2015). Distribution centers, designers, couriers and consumers are all directly connected to the process of supporting the current climate of the apparel industry in Bangladesh. During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, Bangladesh's textile exports equalled approximately 13 billion dollars (Sikder, 2019). The immense growth that the textile industry has seen has come to fruition at a rapid pace. The trend of outsourcing manufacturing and production to Bangladesh grew their infrastructure and labour force within an amazing period of time. According to Ahmed,

“In the short space of 15 years, Bangladesh emerged as the eighth largest garment exporter to the United States by 1991. Approximately 100 different types of garments are now exported to 50 countries around the globe. A major source of foreign exchange, the garment sector grew at a compound rate of 125 percent from 1977 to 1991” (2004).

This growth has continued into the year 2021, with corporations broadening their distribution and earning potential through technological advancements and marketing opportunities. These changes have led to an immense amount of apparel being created and exported from Bangladesh. This massive influence over the economic structure of the state influences both the political sphere and the workforce.

As eighty percent of Bangladesh's gross domestic product is sourced from the textile industry, the attitude of local governments toward operations, factories and workers' rights are, at best, laissez-faire. The economic implications of the industry take

precedent over the individuals who keep it running. Consequently, the government's methodology regarding the industry as a whole is not to disturb it. It has been made apparent through a lack of policy and action that government officials in Bangladesh value the profit that is made from cheap labour as it provides ease for the factory owners and buyers while discounting precarious workers. Although there have been political mobilizations by factory workers to inspire social, political and economic changes to the system, including a demand for fair wages and worker health and safety practices, these demands have not been taken seriously by political representatives or employers. Points of contention between workers and management have rarely seen success, even after catalytic events. This means that workers pay the ultimate price, as proposed changes to these conditions rarely make it onto the political agenda and lack representation. Workers have reported that they rarely receive breaks and are forced to work overtime without adequate compensation. Ironically, when workers' rights are brought to the forefront of the political conversation, they are not involved in the, "drawing up, implementing, monitoring and enforcing the company codes of which they are the purported beneficiaries" (Ngai, 2003). Regarding wages, the average factory worker in Bangladesh will make approximately less than one US dollar per hour. In fact, most factories in Bangladesh pay workers approximately 68 US dollars per month, with no benefits or break periods (ILO, 2015). Meanwhile, garment workers in the West are protected by a federal minimum wage, with many states requiring additional protections for employees. This wage does not account for the number of hours that employees put in or if employees are forced to work overtime, which is often the case due to corporate demands. This factor is the main driver behind Global North countries outsourcing their

production to the country. Bangladesh has been reported to have some of the lowest wages in the world, with a high percentage of individuals living under the poverty line: many being women and children (Kabeer and Mahmud, 2004).

Bangladeshi women are the backbone of the textile industry within the country. Aligned with the rise of globalization, the female labour force increased from “2.54 million to 10.02 million, implying an average growth rate of 16.7 percent per annum” since the mid-1980s (Habib, 2014). This demographic is the most significant when analyzing the names and faces who are handcrafting the garments that are worn in the West. Women are forced to work in precarious circumstances to help support their families in situations of poverty. Many young women are destined to work in the textile industry due to a lack of alternative opportunities and socio-economic circumstances within Bangladesh. This is due to factory jobs being one of the few socially acceptable ways for poorly educated women to earn a living (Fernandez-Stark, Fredrick and Gereffi, 2011). The main reason behind a female-driven workforce is not because of availability, but necessity. Many women are not able to take part in male-dominated careers, as Bangladesh’s society has deemed certain jobs as socially acceptable (Ahmed, 2004). Therefore, women are forced to work in precarious jobs, usually resulting in textiles or the service industry. These are only a few of the highlighted factors that force female workers to live in impoverished and inhumane conditions. Independent of unsafe environments, low wages and sexual harassment on the factory floor are common threats to job security in Bangladesh (Rahman, 2014). Many factory owners hire women as a preference, as they can produce a workforce at a low cost. It is not uncommon for women

and families to share homes or live in lodging that is provided by the workplace itself; many of which would not pass building codes (Khan and Wichterich, 2015). Other ethical concerns include trends of child labour, some of who are the primary breadwinners for their households. Child poverty and a lack of education opportunities have been at the forefront of the discussion surrounding the textile industry. Many women remain uneducated with a higher rate of illiteracy than in other developing countries. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been specifically focused on lessening the prevalence of child poverty in recent years (Hasan et al., 2016). The textile industry in Bangladesh is surely a part of this problem, as the demand for textile factory workers has led owners to cut corners and employ underage individuals. This chain reaction creates a grim socio-economic state that has demeaned state capacity and nurtured poverty within the country. Though, with pressure from Western leadership and global governance organizations, this issue has been addressed in many manufacturing and mining industries. Although the issue has yet to be eradicated, emphasis has been put on child protection and welfare on a global level. While these protections are a step in the right direction to cure the injustices seen in Bangladesh, there is more restructuring that must take place to create an ethical and sustainable textile industry.

The primary reason Bangladesh has been able to attract industries to manufacture their goods is not solely because corporations can outsource labour for a cheaper price, but also due to paying little in tax. In 2012, the textile industry accounted for 45% of all industrial employment in the country yet only contributed 5% of Bangladesh's total national income (Sikder, 2019). Considering the massive financial impact the garment industry has on the state, there is little regulation when it comes to policy or social

welfare. Due to this, there have been many political displays by textile workers to try and put pressure on governments to create change in the industry through peaceful protests and education. However, with a flawed political and economic system, the government has neglected updating policies in favour of the advancement of civil society. Favour is given to factory owners who give precedent to their partnerships, significantly based in Europe and North America (Fernandez-Stark, Fredrick and Gereffi, 2011). This results in Bangladeshi cities not having money to spend on necessary infrastructure to correct public concerns, such as sewage disposal and proper sanitation (Hasan et al., 2019). The lack of progress on these issues rests on the government regime's prioritization of exports and GDP over social welfare. With both public and private global institutions being economically driven in Bangladesh, little social change has come to fruition since the onset of globalization and the liberalization of trade policies.

The case of Bangladesh depicts the current disconnect between the Global North and Global South: underdeveloped countries are being exploited for labour and resources while big businesses and institutions reap the benefits of their labour. The quest for international development remains stagnant for states that remain dependent on the Global North for their economic and political makeup. The interconnectedness of the global economy has resulted in a lack of sustainable development in countries in the Global South, including Bangladesh. The unique partnership that the Global North employs with Bangladesh has had an impact on their development as a country. The pressure to meet quotas set by corporations and fulfill trade agreements has left Bangladesh prioritizing the economic implications of states over their citizens. The textile industry is at the forefront of these issues, and can only be revised with internal and

external forces working together to create sustainable change. Opportunities for global governance institutions, political leadership and Western consumers exist in the current state of Bangladesh's textile industry.

In 2021, Bangladeshi textile workers are facing new challenges based on the pressures being put on the global landscape. Alongside imminent global challenges like climate change, new challenges such as the global COVID-19 pandemic have put additional pressures on the base of the global economy. Individuals all over the world have felt these pressures, with their severity being dependent on the sector in which one is employed. The globalized textile industry has felt global strains immensely in Bangladesh due to highlighting the challenges of wages, working hours and high demand. These challenges are in line with the theory surrounding the foundation of global capitalism being altered by the effects of the pandemic. According to Smith, for global capitalism to thrive, there is exploitation of low-wage workers where the production of consumer goods are sourced (2015). This is true not only for textile workers but precarious workers in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and the service industry. An economic disturbance due to a global crisis impacts those at the bottom of the supply chain.

As Bangladeshi textile workers are working precariously, global economic shifts directly affect operations. The current global textile market is currently projected to reach \$475 billion by the year 2025 (Berg and Amed, 2021). Yet, while some multi-national apparel brands compensated workers who were unable to return to work due to the global health crisis, many cancelled their orders with Bangladeshi textile factories. While some companies paid full wages and compensation to textile workers who were sick or unable

to return to work, others offered no compensation and did not fulfill orders that are crucial to the factory's survival (Frayer, 2020). The president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association reported orders have dropped by half and aren't expected to bounce back for another year. Similar to the tragedy that occurred in Rana Plaza years ago, the threat of job security takes precedent over matters of health and safety of Bangladeshi textile workers in these circumstances. Workers are forced to decide whether the risk of hunger or the risks associated with the global pandemic bear a heavier burden on their livelihood (Sen et al., 2020). Whether a national tragedy or international crisis, workers feel the impact of these events immensely. With such a fragile structure and security in the sector, global or national instances of strife have detrimental outcomes to the already precarious textile industry in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's textile industry personifies the current global economic condition. Over time, Bangladeshi's have become reliant on the textile industry to fuel their economy, which has trickled down to fuelling the livelihood of those who keep it running. The competitive nature of this industry has caused factory owners to cut corners when referring to aspects of wages health and safety practices. Coupled with the presence of corporate greed and a lack of international intervention through global governance and other means, the Bangladeshi textile industry remains an exemplification of uneven global development between the Global North and Global South. Sustainability comes into question when looking at the case of Bangladesh, as the consequences of globalization are apparent when analyzing its indoctrination in the global textile and apparel market. For holistic and sustainable growth to occur in Bangladesh's textile industry, alterations must be made to current practices at all levels of the supply chain.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Western society has grown to value ease and convenience when acquiring products and services. Many individuals do not think twice when taking part in shopping online or in stores, as convenience and pricing of goods surpass ethical sourcing and sustainability. Individuals who live in Global North countries likely own at least one piece of clothing with “Made in Bangladesh” printed on the tag due to the high volume of clothing produced and the popularity of the retail stores they are sold in. These means of production have only grown in demand, with the evolution of technology and buying power growing exponentially since the 1970s. Buying platforms, such as Amazon, have increased the availability of clothing and other items, as well as the efficiency with which they expect to be delivered to one’s front door. These trends have alleviated pressure on the Western consumer while adding immense pressure to textile workers in Bangladesh.

Over time, states like Bangladesh have become economically dependent on countries in the Global North. These situations of dependency are multidimensional, and will only be solved by changes toward sustainable development (Odeh, 2010). As a result of globalization and the implications of trade liberalization, uneven economic growth has negatively affected textile workers in Bangladesh. The question of whether those who work in the textile industry have been in a weak position due to a globalized marketplace depends on the individualistic actors that either benefit or suffer due to a globalized world. The textile industry, being Bangladesh’s largest export, has been exemplified as an industry that has thrived economically due to globalization and trade liberalization.

Yet, the balancing scales have been skewed toward major economic actors who have outsourced their labour or led these operations, rather than those who are taking part in this precarious work. A focus on holding corporations accountable through fair trade policies would be a positive movement for the globalized textile industry.

Using qualitative methods and analyzing quantitative data, a review of past literature defines and answers this research question. Combining methodologies allows one to arrive at a conclusion on whether or not globalization has had a positive or negative effect on the textile industry in Bangladesh. As the phenomenon of globalization continues to evolve, the pressures put on the textile industry continue to grow as well. Through analyzing past discourse, it is evident that the current state of the textile industry requires a revolution. A review of previous literature provides important qualitative and quantitative, as well as theoretical and numerical, support for this argument. Articles that provide diverse outlooks on the current state of global development are relevant to the evolution of Bangladesh's textile industry.

Bangladesh has taken efforts to diversify trade, discover innovative markets for their exports, both traditional and non-traditional, and embrace new partnerships with countries in the Global South (Jalil, 2011). These efforts are in direct conflict with the current state of globalization and the states that have power over the global social order through trade policies, global governance and other economic and political truths. Taking charge of economic growth and state capacity will detract from the dependency that is currently necessary for Bangladesh to prosper and develop. However, with a level of dependency that exists politically, economically and socially, it will require restructuring value chains that have evolved with globalization. There is optimism within relevant

literature regarding the potential for developing states to become a greater part of the global community through ethical practices and changes within states. However, this will take action from several parties who are involved in multi-lateral trade, governance and multi-national corporations. This includes an emphasis on global governance, as well as strategic partnerships to ensure adequate compensation and worker health and safety practices. In order for the Global North and Global South to have equal opportunities in the age of globalization, states must work together and take accountability for the internal and external consequences of a homogeneous global market. While globalization and development have created interconnectedness among states, their polarizing effects can be seen through the ready-made garment and textile industry. Using practical and theoretical research, one can be able to further understand the complexities that exist as a result of the changing world and make globalization work for all.

Although these habits of over-consumption have become fashionable in recent years, overconsumption directly impacts textile workers in Bangladesh and other precarious workers creating these garments. While sustainable shopping may decrease the amount of waste that is put into landfills, impoverished countries, like Bangladesh, rely on the textile industry to support their economic growth. However, by not contributing to corporations that outsource labour and create waste through shipping, excessive water usage and the garments themselves taking up space in landfills, transnational apparel companies may be forced to change their methods of production. By shifting one's agenda to not solely prioritize profit, the narrative surrounding outsourcing labour in the textile industry can change. This may begin with checking the tag on low-priced items and identifying further when it states, "Made in Bangladesh." Initiatives from global

governance institutions, as well as grassroots changes in the Global North, will further incentivize a global shift in fairness and equality.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are both positive gains and negative criticisms regarding the phenomenon of globalization. Globalization is a profitable opportunity, but the weaker players can become genuine participants and seize the opportunities it offers only if there is a new mindset and an equalized approach. This approach must be universal and pluralistic, and operationalized in the context of global framework that establishes justice, mutual cooperation, supremacy of law and ensure equality of opportunities for all (Hossen, 2014). In order to change the course of the negative effects globalization has had on developing states, economic, institutional and societal changes will have to be made. This not only includes private corporations but public organizations and global governance. Otherwise, it will simply hamper the rapid economic growth that the world has been consistently seeing at the expense of developing states.

By acknowledging the impact that globalization has had on the textile industry, specifically in Bangladesh, recommendations can be highlighted in support of sustainability and development. There is a strong presence in academia regarding the need for intervention in the globalized textile market. While globalization has created a positive trajectory in the global economy, current markets rest on the exploitation of individuals who are the backbone of creating these products and services. Global

leadership in politics, business and society have the opportunity to intervene in the sourcing and manufacturing of goods, as well as the regulatory practices that encompass trade and international commerce. This includes leaders in global governance, such as the International Labour Organization, who have set forth recommendations and programs to aid underdeveloped countries in the age of globalized labour practices (ILO, 2014). Yet, Countries such as the United States have been particularly poignant when looking at countries that have strong ties in outsourcing goods and services. Several foundational economic actors have the onus to reshape their practices surrounding developing nations. Recommendations have been highlighted to depict some necessary changes that may alter the current inadequacies in the global textile industry.

Reframing the current landscape of the textile industry is vitally important to workers in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, several grassroots attempts to create positive changes have only been successful when backed by large corporations or a significant public outcry. As prominent leaders in the textile industry, multi-national corporations that outsource their manufacturing to developing countries have a duty to ensure ethical practices in textile factories. Corporations specializing in apparel have the potential to utilize their socio-economic influence to introduce and implement ILO conventions and practice social dialogue (Granath, 2016). Corporations have the ability to influence the implementation of domestic and international regulatory policies that are in favour of fair working practices in textile factories, specifically in developing states such as Bangladesh. According to Yang,

Bangladesh faces a serious challenge in maintaining its competitiveness... This challenge should serve as a wake-up call for policymakers. With its vast labour

resources, Bangladesh has great potential to expand its exports of RMGs and other labour-intensive exports if its key structural weaknesses can be overcome. Bangladesh needs to make determined efforts to raise productivity through accelerated structural reforms (2004).

Although labour provisions are important at all levels of governance, international institutions are important considering the globalized supply chain involved in textiles. Several global governance institutions, such as the World Trade Organization and International Labour Organization, have taken an initiative to trade and labour standards to ensure individual rights are being protected. International governmental institutions can influence national governments to change regulatory policies and shape the future of global value chains (Islam et al., 2017). However, the ability for concrete domestic policies to allow workers to advocate for themselves continues to be a point of contention. This includes the opportunity for unionization within the textile workforce and breaking down the barriers between the formation of unions and the state of Bangladesh. Many precarious workers fear for their livelihood when engaging in protests for wages, fair working hours and liveable conditions. Apparel corporations have the ability and, arguably, the responsibility to advocate on behalf of textile workers manning the factories they outsource to. Moreover, leading companies in the apparel space have the obligation to set an example for other apparel companies that follow suit in exploitative practices. Although competition has been deemed economically healthy and necessary to capitalism, the current textile industry is surviving on paper-thin margins and little product innovation (Antoshak, 2016). Consumerism has begun to appreciate socially responsible practices, thus creating a new competitive playing field. In a survey

conducted by the International Textile and Apparel Association, participants agreed that topics related to labour practices in and trade with developing countries, consumerism and aspects of environmental protection were of the utmost importance (Dickson and Eckman, 2006). Social responsibility and ethics in textiles, as well as related industries, follow suit with trends of sustainability. Regarding worker's wages, apparel companies have the ability to advocate for the workers creating their garments. While multi-national apparel corporations are only one level of the supply chain that encompasses ready-made garments, they fall near the top of the chain of command. Therefore, these embedded corporations have the resources and power to engage in socially responsible practices and change the structure of the textile industry, as it is currently known.

Acknowledging the negative consequences of global capitalism, an alternative question can then be posed probing how multi-national corporations can reverse the negative impacts globalization has had on the fashion industry and in countries such as Bangladesh. The answer could be fair-trade fashion: an effort made by companies to resist shopping around for the cheapest labour, but rather take into consideration the political social and moral implications of their production. Fair-trade is an institutional arrangement that entails workers making fair wages, being treated properly, and working in safe conditions (WFTO, 2012). Major players have ignored various human rights concerns regarding precarious workers within the textile industry living conditions, exploitation and child abuse. The theory behind fair trade includes paying a higher price for fair-trade clothing to ensure profits end up back with workers, rather than just factories or multi-national companies. There has been an upward shift toward the concept of fair-trade products not only in the fashion industry, but also among other transnational

corporations outsourcing manufacturing from the Global South (Natalia et al., 2017). Unfortunately, fair-trade items usually require a greater retail cost than a similar product manufactured by a corporation that does not implement fair-trade practices. Ideally, the more that consumers would pay for these manufactured goods would trickle down to individual states providing the labour rather than multi-national corporations accumulating more wealth than is deemed “necessary” by many critics. Additionally, several companies that take part in fair-trade practices have been noted to take part in profit sharing and providing benefits to workers outside of higher wages. This can include childcare, education, health benefits and shorter working hours. These benefits can directly support marginalized groups in certain societies: particularly women with children (McKaraheer, 2020).

Another aspect fair-trade efforts address is environmental concerns caused by globalized manufacturing. With the vast amount of clothing that is being manufactured and sold worldwide, more waste is being created within countries that may not have proper infrastructure or sanitation policies to effectively deal with it. In the Global North, the transition to “fast fashion” is sometimes “heralded as the democratization of fashion in which the latest styles are available to all classes of consumers, the human and environmental health risks associated with inexpensive clothing are hidden throughout the lifecycle of each garment” (Bick, Halsey and Ekenga, 2018). Even so, efforts have been made to eradicate environmental concerns regarding “fast fashion” by some large corporations. Recycling programs and thrift shopping have been integrated into popular culture and adopted by major retailers, within Canada and beyond. This includes targeted recycling programs, like Textiles for Textiles (T4T), as well as initiatives from brands such

as Patagonia (Chavan, 2014). While sustainable shopping may decrease the amount of waste that is put into landfills, impoverished countries, like Bangladesh, rely on the textile industry to support their economic growth. However, by not contributing to corporations that outsource labour and create waste through shipping, excessive water usage and the garments themselves taking up space in landfills, transnational apparel companies may be forced to change their methods of production.

Globalization has created a common marketplace for buyers all over the world whose choices fuel trade and connectivity. Consumers influence the globalized industry through their product choices, how much one buys, maintenance preferences, as well as how and when they discard clothes (Soyer and Dittrich, 2021). Sustained consumer behaviour allows for multinational apparel corporations to continue doing business as usual: employing low-skilled workers to meet irrevocable quotas with little compensation. Whether making sustainable purchases, buying fair trade products or buying locally, shifting away from purchasing mass-produced apparel removes the economic incentive for apparel corporations. It is recommended that before making a purchase, one might consider corporate social responsibility and ethical sourcing. Many apparel brands based in the US and EU have shifted their attention to socially responsible business practices after consumer backlash. Igniting events, such as the Rana Plaza tragedy, have been influential to shed light on these practices and change consumer behaviour in support of those affected by the tragedy. However, after time has passed, public outcry against unethical practices in textile factories has waned. Since then, there has been an emphasis on environmental and economic narratives that encompass the need for change in the textile industry. Due to this, workers and their allies all over the world

are undoubtedly putting pressure on apparel companies to ethically source their materials and support workers. In order to change the course of globalization, grassroots initiatives can influence the trajectory of liberalizing trade and sustainability. Although there must be an emphasis on change throughout the supply chain, the sustainable choices of consumers can massively influence the current state of the textile industry in Bangladesh and beyond.

In sum, as seen through the textile industry in Bangladesh, globalization has affected development in the Global South. Textile workers, such as Sampa Akter, work extensive hours a day in a Bangladeshi textile factory, sewing garments destined for retail stores around the world. Workers like Sampa earn their livelihoods in an industry that is responsible for the majority of the country's exports in Bangladesh. Yet, limited compensation and hazards create a network of inequality in the supply chain. What can be depicted through the personification of the textile industry in Sampa's story is one individual's ease rests on the implications of another individual's unnecessary hardship. In a world preoccupied with consumption, changes are being made to the socio-economic landscape that fuels globalization. In order to make globalization and trade liberalization sustainable, efforts can be made by grassroots initiatives, global governance and policy reform. These changes rest in the narrative surrounding the level of consumption necessary and the cost at which products and services are rendered. Emphasis has been put on the hardships that individuals of a lower socio-economic status have had to endure, specifically in developing countries. By putting a name to the injustices that individuals in Bangladesh and beyond must endure, one can begin to understand the real price behind the clothing one consumes.

REFERENCES

- Ahmed, F. E. (2004). The rise of the Bangladesh garment industry: Globalization, women workers, and voice. *NWSA journal*, 34-45.
- Ahmed, N. (2006). Addressing Workers' Rights in the Textile and Apparel Industries: Consequences for the Bangladesh Economy. *World Development*, 37(3), 661-675. doi:10.1016/j.worlddev.2008.06.003
- Akinrinade, S., & Ogen, O. (2008). Globalization and de-industrialization: South-South neo-liberalism and the collapse of the Nigerian textile industry. *The Global South*, 159-170.
- Ali, M., & Habib, M. (2012). Supply Chain Management of Textile Industry: A Case Study on Bangladesh. *International Journal of Supply Chain Management*, 1(2).
- Antoshak, R. (2016). Beyond Globalization: A Changing Textile and Apparel Industry. *Consults to the Global Fiber, Textile and Apparel Industries*.
- Arrighi, G. (2001). Global capitalism and the persistence of the north-south divide. *Science & Society*, 65(4), 469-476.
- Ashraf, H., & Prentice, R. (2019). Beyond factory safety: labour unions, militant protest, and the accelerated ambitions of Bangladesh's export garment industry. *Dialect Anthropol*, 93-107.
- Basheer, A. (2015). Globalization or colonization: post-colonial Civic Education in Palestine, Jordan, and the US. *Journal of Education & Social Policy Vol, 2*.

- Benetti, M. R. (2016). *The effects of globalization on the fashion industry* (Doctoral dissertation, Univerisdade de Lisboa. Faculdade de Arquitetura).
- Berg, A., & Ahmed, I. (2020). The State of Fashion. *Business of Fashion, McKinsey & Company*.
- Bick, R., Halsey, E., & Ekenga, C. C. (2018). The global environmental injustice of fast fashion. *Environmental Health*, 17(1). doi:10.1186/s12940-018-0433-7
- Caleca, A. (2014). The effects of globalization on Bangladesh's ready-made garment industry: The high cost of cheap clothing. *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, 40(1), 279-320.
- Chavan, R. B. (2014). Environmental sustainability through textile recycling. *J Textile Sci Eng S*, 2, 2.
- Connell, T. (2020). Bangladesh Garment Workers: New blocks to form Unions. *Solidarity Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.solidaritycenter.org/bangladesh-garment-workers-new-blocks-to-form-unions/>
- Curran, L. & Nadvi, K. (2015), Shifting trade preferences and value chain impacts in the Bangladesh textiles and garment industry, *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, Volume 8, Issue 3, p. 459–474, <https://doi-org.ledproxy2.uwindsor.ca/10.1093/cjres/rsv019>
- Dickson, M. A., & Eckman, M. (2006). Social Responsibility: The Concept As Defined by Apparel and Textile Scholars. *Clothing and Textiles Research Journal*, 24(3), 178–191. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0887302X06293031>

- Dobson, W. & Jacquet, P. (1998). "Financial Services Liberalization in the World Trade Organization," Peterson Institute Press: All Books, *Peterson Institute for International Economics*, 59.
- Drori, G. S. (2010). Globalization and technology divides: Bifurcation of policy between the “digital divide” and the “innovation divide”. *Sociological Inquiry*, 80(1), 63-91.
- Fathi, N. (2020). Safety First: Bangladesh Garment Industry Rebounds. Retrieved from [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/news_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/news and events/news/insights/bangladesh-garment-industry](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/news_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/news_and_events/news/insights/bangladesh-garment-industry)
- Fernandez-Stark, K., Frederick, S., & Gereffi, G. (2011). The apparel global value chain. *Duke Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness*.
- Fischer, S. (2003). Globalization and its challenges. *American Economic Review*, 93(2), 1-30.
- Forbes Magazine. (2020). World's Most Valuable Brands 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/companies/zara/#600605b74877>
- Frayser, L. (2020, June 05). For Bangladesh's Struggling Garment Workers, Hunger Is A Bigger Worry Than Pandemic. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/05/869486297/for-bangladeshs-struggling-garment-workers-hunger-is-a-bigger-worry-than-pandemic>
- French, J. J., & Martin, M. (2013). The roof is on fire: The ethical minefield of the textile industry in Bangladesh. *Journal of the International Academy for Case Studies*, 19(7), 75.

- Global Trade Alert Initiative. (2016). Financial Market Data. *World Trade Organization*.
- Granath, S. (2016). The Practice of Social Dialogue in the Readymade Garment factories in Bangladesh. *Master thesis in Sustainable Development at Uppsala University*, 1-55.
- Habib, M. (2014). *Women in the garment industry of Bangladesh; a paradox of women empowerment and transformation of structural violence* (Master's thesis, UiT Norges arktiske universitet).
- Hanushek, E. A. (2013). "Economic growth in developing countries: The role of human capital", *Economics of Education Review*, Volume 37, 204-212, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2013.04.005>.
- Harrington, A. R. (2011). Corporate Social Responsibility, Globalization, the Multinational Corporation, and Labor: An Unlikely Alliance. *Albany Law Review*, 75(1), 483-510.
- Hasan, K. F., Mia, M. S., Rahman, M. M., Ullah, A. A., & Ullah, M. S. (2016). Role of textile and clothing industries in the growth and development of trade & business strategies of Bangladesh in the global economy. *International Journal of Textile Science*, 5(3), 39-48.
- Hasan, M. K., Shahriar, A., & Jim, K. U. (2019). Water pollution in Bangladesh and its impact on public health. *Heliyon*, 5(8), e02145. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2019.e02145>

- Höllerer, M. A., Walgenbach, P., & Drori, G. S. (2017). The consequences of globalization for institutions and organizations. *The SAGE handbook of organizational institutionalism*, 214-242.
- Horner, R. (2019). Towards a new paradigm of global development? Beyond the limits of international development. *Progress in Human Geography*, 44(3), 415-436.
doi:10.1177/0309132519836158
- Hossen, A. (2014). Globalization and its impacts on Garments Sector in Bangladesh. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 5(24).
- International Labour Organization. (2013). Major ILO programme aims to make Bangladesh garment industry safer. *International Labour Organization*.
http://www.ilo.org/dhaka/Informationresources/Publicinformation/Pressreleases/WCMS_226720/lang--en/index.htm
- International Labour Organization. (2014, September 16). Occupational safety and health in the textiles, clothing, leather and footwear sector. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/safework/industries-sectors/WCMS_219033/lang--en/index.htm
- International Labour Organization. (2015). Labour Standards in Global Supply Chains. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_436867.pdf
- International Monetary Fund. (2001). Global Trade Liberalization and the Developing Countries. *IMF*.

- Islam, M., Khan, A. M., & Islam, M. (2013). Textile Industries in Bangladesh and Challenges of Growth. *Research Journal of Engineering Sciences*, 2(2), 31-37.
- Islam, M. T., Khattak, A., & Stringer, C. (2017). A governance deficit in the apparel industry in Bangladesh: Solutions to the impasse?. In *Governing Corporate Social Responsibility in the Apparel Industry after Rana Plaza* (pp. 111-145). Palgrave Macmillan, New York.
- Jalil, D. (2011). Globalization and its impact on Bangladesh economy. *State University of Bangladesh*.
- Kabeer, N., & Mahmud, S. (2004). Rags, riches and women workers: export-oriented garment manufacturing in Bangladesh. *Chains of fortune: Linking women producers and workers with global markets*, 133-164.
- Kabir, M., Singh, S., & Ferrantino, M. J. (2019). The Textile-Clothing Value Chain in India and Bangladesh: How Appropriate Policies Can Promote (or Inhibit) Trade and Investment. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper*, (8731).
- Kameer, N. and Mahmud, S. (2004), Globalization, gender and poverty: Bangladeshi women workers in export and local markets. *J. Int. Dev.*, 16: 93-109. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.1065>
- Khan, M. S., & Reinhart, C. M. (1990). Private investment and economic growth in developing countries. *World development*, 18(1), 19-27.
- Khan, M. R. I., & Wichterich, C. (2015). *Safety and labour conditions: the accord and the national tripartite plan of action for the garment industry of Bangladesh* (No. 38). Global Labour University Working Paper.

- Ledezma, Victoria. (2017). Globalization and Fashion: Too Fast, Too Furious. *Laurier Undergraduate Journal of the Arts*, (4)
- Lee, E. (2005). Trade Liberalization and Employment. *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, 5.
- Lee, J. (2010). Global commodity chains and global value chains. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*.
- Li, Y., Zhao, X., Shi, D., & Price, X. (2014). Governance of Sustainable Supply Chains in the Fast Fashion Industry. *European Management Journal*.
- Linden, A. R. (2016). An Analysis of the Fast Fashion Industry. *Senior Projects*, 30.
https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/senproj_f2016/30
- Little, W., Vyain, S., Scaramuzzo, G., Cody-Rydzewski, S., Griffiths, H., Strayer, E., & Keirns, N. (2014). Introduction to sociology—1st Canadian edition. *BC Campus: Victoria, BC, Canada*.
- Masum, M. (2016). The Bangladesh textile-clothing industry: a demand-supply review. *Social Syst. Stud*, 9, 109-139.
- Meraj, M. (2013). Impact of globalization and trade openness on economic growth in Bangladesh. *Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies*, 32, 40-51.
- Mittelman, J. (2002). Globalization: An Ascendant Paradigm? *International Studies Perspectives*, vol. 3, no. 1, 1-14.
- Morrison, W. (2019). China's Economic Rise: History, Trends, Challenges, and Implications for the United States. *Congressional Research Service*.
- Mosoetsa, S., & Williams, M. (2012). Labour in the global South: challenges and alternatives for workers. *International Union Rights*, 19(3), 28-28.

- Mostafiz, I., Musteen, M. C., Saiyed, A., & Ahsan, M. (2021). Covid-19 and the global value chain: immediate dynamics and long-term restructuring in the garment industry. *Journal of Business Research*.
- Natalia, M., Trevor, B. M., & Sabrina, S. A. (2017). Fair Trade and Sustainability in the British Textile Industry: An Evolution from Exploitation towards Global 'Equality'. *J Textile Sci Eng*, 7(324), 2.
- Nazim, M. U. (2014). Role of Ready-Made Garment Sector in Economic Development of Bangladesh. *Journal of Accounting, Business and Management*, 21: 54-70.
- Ngai, R. L. (2003). Barriers and Transition to Modern Growth. *CEP Discussion Papers*. Centre for Economic Performance, LSE.
- Odeh, L. E. (2010). A comparative analysis of global north and global south economies. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, (Volume 12, No.3)
- Osmani, S. R. (2005). The impact of globalization on poverty in Bangladesh. *Policy Integration Department Working Paper No. 65, International Labour Organization: Geneva*.
- Paul, R. (2021). Bangladesh exports up 15% as global demand for garments rebounds. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/bangladesh-exports-up-15-global-demand-garments-rebounds-2021-07-06/>
- Paulicelli, E., & Clark, H. (2009). *The fabric of cultures fashion, identity, and globalization*. London: Routledge.

- Piore, Michael. (1997). The Economics of the Sweatshop. In *No Sweat: fashion, free trade, and the rights of garment workers*, New York: Verso.
- Rahma, N., & Rakhmawati, A. F. (2019, November). Race to the Bottom: Sweatshop Industry Existence in Bangladesh and Its Impact on Social Cultural. In *ASEAN/Asian Academic Society International Conference Proceeding Series* (pp. 548-552).
- Rahman, S. (2014). *Broken promises of globalization: The case of the Bangladesh garment industry*. Lanham: Lexington Books.
- Rahman, Z., & Langford, T. (2012). Why labour unions have failed Bangladesh's garment workers. *Labour in the global south*, 87-106.
- Rashid, S. F. (2009). Strategies to reduce exclusion among populations living in urban slum settlements in Bangladesh. *Journal of health, population, and nutrition*, 27(4), 574.
- Robbins, D. J. (2003). The Impact of Trade Liberalization Upon Inequality in Developing Countries. *International Policy Group*, (13).
- Sakamoto, M., Ahmed, T., Begum, S., & Huq, H. (2019). Water pollution and the textile industry in Bangladesh: flawed corporate practices or restrictive opportunities?. *Sustainability*, 11(7), 1951.
- Scholte, Jan. (2002). What Is Globalization? The Definitional Issue - Again. *CSGR*.
- Sen, S., Antara, N., Sen, S., & Chowdhury, S. (2020). The Unprecedented Pandemic'COVID-19'Effect on the Bangladesh Apparel Workers by Shivering the Apparel Supply Chain. *Journal of Textile and Apparel, Technology and Management*, 11(3), 1-20.

- Shamshad Begum & Abul F.M. Shamsuddin (1998) Exports and economic growth in Bangladesh, *The Journal of Development Studies*, 35:1, 89-114, DOI: 10.1080/00220389808422556
- Sharma, M. S. (2015). SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES OF COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN INDIA AND CHINA-A COMPARATIVE STUDY. *JAGRAN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL*, 88.
- Simpson, J. A., Weiner, E. S. C., & Oxford University Press. (1989). *The Oxford English Dictionary*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Sikder, A. R. (2019). A review of Textile industry in Bangladesh. *International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Research*, 6(3), 9-14. doi: 10.22192/ijamr
- Smith, John. (2012). The GDP Illusion: Value Added versus Value Capture. *Monthly Review*. 64. 86-102. 10.14452/MR-064-03-2012-07_6.
- Smith, John. (2015). Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century: Globalization, Super-Exploitation, and Capitalism Final Crisis. *Monthly Review*. 67. 82. 10.14452/MR-067-03-2015-07_6.
- Sniegocki, J. (2008). Neoliberal globalization: critiques and alternatives. *Theological Studies*, 69(2), 321-339.
- Soyer, M. & Dittrich, K. (2021). Sustainable Consumer Behavior in Purchasing, Using and Disposing of Clothes. *Sustainability*, 13, 8333. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13158333>
- Stiglitz, J. E. (2007). *Making globalization work*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

- Strange, R., & Magnani, G. (2017). The performance consequences of manufacturing outsourcing: Review and recommendations for future research. *Breaking up the Global Value Chain*.
- Tandon, N. & Reddy, E. (2013). A Study on Emerging Trends In Textile Industry In India. *International Journal of Advancements in Research & Technology*, 2(7), 267 – 276.
- Tarrow, S. (1995). Bridging the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide in Political Science. *The American Political Science Review*, 89(2), 471-474. doi:10.2307/2082444
- United Nations. (2020). World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World. *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*.
- Walsh, M. (1979). The Democratization of Fashion: The Emergence of the Women's Dress Pattern Industry. *The Journal of American History*, 66(2), 299–313.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/1900878>
- Wolf, M. (2004). *Why globalization works* (Vol. 3). Yale University Press.
- World Bank. (2021, February 1). Bangladesh Receives \$500 Million from World Bank to Improve Road and Digital Connectivity in Western Region. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/02/01/bangladesh-receives-500-million-from-world-bank-to-improve-road-and-digital-connectivity-in-western-region>
- World Bank. (2021). The World Bank in Bangladesh: Overview. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/bangladesh/overview#1>
- World Fair Trade Organization. (2012). Impact of Globalization in Textile Industry.

World Trade Organization. (2016). Top Ten Clothing Exporters. *World Trade Organization Annual Report*.

Yang, Yongzheng. (2004). The End of Textiles Quotas: A Case Study of the Impact on Bangladesh.

VITA AUCTORIS

NAME: Jamie DiMenna

PLACE OF BIRTH: Windsor, ON

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1996

EDUCATION: Leamington District Secondary School,
Leamington, ON, 2014

University of Windsor, B.A[H], Windsor, ON,
2019

Queens University, Certificate in Law, 2019

University of Windsor, M.A., Windsor, ON, 2022