
A QUIZ-DISCUSSION GUIDE
by John P. Catalini, Writing Program Lecturer

This packet contains fill-in quiz statements based on the text of T-Shirt. They follow the order of the book, and are meant to be annotations for a close, critical reading. There are also five mini-essays for discussion. The hand lettering parallels the crafting of things by textile artisans.

Here are some things to consider as you read the book:

- It is an academic ____________, replete with primary research, integrated quotations, illustrative graphics, and end notes.
- It is an ____________, using thesis, evidence, refutation, and conclusion — with persuasive appeals.
- It is journalistic ____________, showing and telling the who, what, when, where and why of the story.
- It is a business ____________, explaining the feasibility, marketplace competition, management, and cost analysis of multiple systems impacting each other.
- It is ____________, comparing human cultures — their frontstage, backstage, scene, script, and affect, or psychological magnification — around the world.
- It is human ________, politics, diplomacy, social activism, down home living, street smarts, and just plain straight talk.

Can you put that into a T-Shirt slogan, dear reader?

ANSWER BANK: ethnology; reportage; drama; treatise; presentation; argument.
...depths of a Charles Dickens novel?" "At the end of my T-shirt's life, at last..."

"story..."

"master narrative..."

"birthplace..."

"classic wholers' predilection..."

"...irony and analogy..."

"...dramatic effect..."

"...short, punchy sentences..."

"Let the Dead Be Forced to Wear It 152..."

"...move up the value chain..."

"help wanted: docile and desperate. Preferral..."

"...keep the Fiddler. Well, supplied with Caterpillar 13-14..."

"...margin being squeezed..."

"...price competition..."

"...economic cycle of small holdings..."

"...marketing was fragmented..."

"...pool...risk-sharing..."

"...liability company..."

"...supply chain management..."

"...surplus labor..."

"...scarce and attractive..."

"...high margin..."

"...tariff...quota...limit..."

"...capitalism 103..."

"...global welfare...metric..."

"...most large retailers...source their clothing in..."

"...the compensation principle..."

"...informal...formal economy..."

"...mo...a moral case..."
The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade • PIETRA RIVOLI, PHD

1. Author Pietra Rivoli was inspired to do research for Travels by a student’s question during a 1999 University rally. xi

2. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) are the targets of “backlash” groups who have used slogans such as “_______ is Death.” xi-xii

3. While the story may only represent “_______” data, it is the basis for research works as diverse as The Making of the Atomic Bomb, A Midwife’s Tale, and Enterprising Elites. xiii

4. Economists in general argue that international market competition creates a ____ of wealth that...will lift all boats, while critics worry about the effects of unrelenting market forces, especially upon workers. xiv

5. Citing Karl Polanyi and Peter Dougherty as sources, Rivoli concludes that “The trade skeptics need the corporations, the corporations need the skeptics, but most of all, the Asian _______ worker and African cotton farmer need them both.” xv

6. Rivoli uses allusion and imagery to enhance her facts:
   - brave new world
   - David - Goliath maneuver
   - held ... talks hostage
   - public’s radar screen
   - assumed center stage
   - swelled up like a _______ xv-xvi

7. Globalization is partly about the “race to the _______.” xvi

ANSWERS: tide; sweatshop; Georgetown; anecdotal; balloon; Capitalism; bottom.
Travels of a T-Shirt - Pietra Rivoli

NAME: ___________________ COURSE: ___________________

PROLOGUE, xvii-xxi

1. The author visited a T-Shirt bin at Walgreen’s in ________ FL in 1999.

2. Gary Sandler’s father, Quentin, formed Sherry Fashions just after xvii
   __________, naming the company for his eldest daughter. xviii

3. In the mid-1970s, Gary quit ________ to join the company. xviii

4. The author observes that "Where the shirts are headed you need sun
   lotion, but where they come from you need ________." xix

5. Patrick Xu (Zhao Min), she writes, "straddles East and West, rich
   and poor, __________ and capitalism with almost cat-like balance."xx

ANSWER BANK: shots; World War II; communism; Ft. Lauderdale; college.

Cotton subsidy is ruled illegal

LA Times 12/19/07

From the Associated Press

GENEVA — The United States has failed to scrap a series of illegal subsidies paid to American cotton growers, the World Trade Organization declared Tuesday, opening the door to Brazilian trade sanctions worth billions of dollars.

The formal release of the ruling is a major victory for Brazil’s cotton industry and for West African countries that claim to have been harmed by the U.S. payments.

"The United States has failed to comply," the three-member WTO compliance panel said.

Details of the 188-page decision have been known since July, when the panel delivered its interim findings confidentially to the United States and Brazil.

The two nations confirmed at that time and again in October that the panel found that export credit guarantees and U.S. subsidies under the 2002 farm bill unfairly helped American cotton farmers undersell foreign competitors.

Brazil has reserved the right to impose annual sanctions of as much as $4 billion on the United States, but would probably seek less in retaliatory measures because the U.S. has removed some of the offending subsidies.

The office of the U.S. trade representative in Washington said it was considering a final appeal.

"We are very disappointed with the compliance panel’s findings," spokeswoman Gretchen Hamel said. "We continue to believe that support payments and export credit guarantees under our programs are fully consistent with our WTO obligations." Despite repeated legal setbacks, Washington looks set to continue the payments. The Senate joined the House on Friday in approving a new $286-billion farm bill that would leave cotton programs largely intact for the next five years.

MINI-ESSAY: How much of a role should regulatory groups (governments, trade organizations, world courts) play in global commerce? What sanctions should they impose and enforce? (Attach separate sheet.)
Travels of a T-Shirt - Pietra Rivoli

NAME: ___________________ COURSE: ___________________

PART I King Cotton: 1 Reinsch Cotton Farm, Smyer, Texas, 3-9
1. The Reinsches' 1,000 acres can produce about
500,000 pounds of cotton lint if fully planted, enough for about 1.3 million _____.

2. Though preeminence in consumer electronics, apparel production and steel moved from America within the ________ lifetime, the U.S. has been the cotton industry leader around the globe for 200 years.

3. Models of business ______ would predict that dominance in such an industry as cotton can only be fleeting and stressful.

4. Oxfam’s 2002 report Cultivating Poverty argues that the advantage of U.S. cotton farmers over other countries is due to government _______.

5. According to Rivoli, "America growers' remarkable adaptability and entrepreneurial resourcefulness have their roots in character but also in the institutions and governance _______ taken for granted in the United States, which are lacking in many poor countries."

6. She states that, "to understand American cotton's long-run dominance, we should begin by agreeing to neither ______ nor ______ American cotton farmers."

ANSWER BANK: strategy; mechanisms; demonize; T-shirts; subsidies; baby boomers; romanticize.

MINI-ESSAY: Check off your choices below.

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PART I: King Cotton (2: The History of American Cotton, 9-24)

1. Cotton factories helped launch the Industrial ________ in 18th C. Britain.
2. In 1791, the American ________ produced barely 2 million pounds of cotton.
3. Slavery was a "public ________ that protected cotton growers in the market.
4. Slavery gave cotton farmers a way around the ________ labor constraint.
5. The planter's control over slaves was strengthened by ________.
6. Commercial success can be achieved through ________ failure.
7. The Sea Island cotton Churkka gin didn't work with ________ cotton.
8. Eli Whitney's gin was backed by a ________ capitalist at a plantation.
9. Cotton growers in India didn't have ________ rights.
10. The Qing dynasty in China displayed an aversion to all things ________.
11. In a speech before the U.S. Senate, James Henry Hammond of South Carolina said, "Cotton is King." (Congressional Globe, March 4, ______, p. 959)
12. The labor system of tenant farming, or ________, replaced slavery.
13. Louis XIV of France reportedly remarked that "Credit supports agriculture as a cord supports the ________." 
14. In 1921, approximately 30 percent of the cotton crop was lost to the ________.
15. Cotton farmers tried monkeys, geese and ________ to work their farms.

ANSWER BANK: 1859; sharecropping; Upland; weevil; paternalism; venture; Revolution; property; policy; South; Western; flamethrowers; moral; family; hanged.

3 Back at the Reinsch Farm, 25-57

1. Machines, science, cooperatives and government form an "interlocking ________ circle."
2. The WWII emergency Bracero program applied to ________ farm labor until 1964.
3. In Ned Cobb's ________ new world, if you couldn't read, you couldn't farm.
4. The cotton stripper and ________ made cotton farming more efficient.
5. Because of recycling, subsidies and superior marketing, U.S. cotton farmers can avoid the cycle of subsistence, exploitation, crisis and ________.

ANSWER BANK: brave; defoliants; Mexican; virtuous; disaster.
Travels of a T-Shirt: Pietra Rivoli

NAME: ____________ COURSE: ____________

PART II Made In China: 4 Cotton Comes to China, 61-72
1. In a circular linkage that ebbs and flows (but mostly grows), demand by Americans for ________ clothing from China leads to demand from China for cotton from America. 62

2. In July 1921, the Chinese Communist Party was founded in a Shanghai schoolhouse; subsequent labor activism resulted in many strike leaders in the textile industry being publicly ________ as a lesson to others. 63

3. Central planning is perceived by some experts as being inefficient, a system that ignores market signals, provides no incentives, and subsidizes ________. 67

4. In The Race to the Bottom (2000), Alan Tonelson argues that the “surplus” of labor in China leads to favoring of the cheapest, ________ producers. 70

5. Rivoli states that critics claim cheap T-Shirts from China are a victory for U.S. consumers and for corporate profits, but a failure for ________. 72

ANSWER BANK: Draconian; beheaded; cheap; humanity; losers.

5 The Long Race to the Bottom, 73-85
1. The bottleneck between spinners and weavers was somewhat alleviated by Hargreaves’ spinning _________. 75

2. In 1810, Francis Cabot Lowell, a blue-blooded Bostonian, carried out an act of industrial ________ to “steal” the idea of the power loom. 78

3. After Britain, New England gained dominance in the textile industry, followed by the American South, Japan, and the Asian “______.” 82-84

4. Young women mill workers in these places were called ________. 82-85

ANSWER BANK: espionage; NICS; jenny; docile.
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6. Sisters in Time: From the Farm to the Sweatshop and Beyond, 86-107

p. 87 1. Roughly translated, ______ is a place of household registration.

pp. 88 2. The liudong renkou, or ______ people, are caught in a system the author compares to Bracero workers, and China labor specialist Anita Chan likened to South African apartheid.

p. 93 3. In ______ from the East, Kristof and Wu-Dunn report that for many poverty-stricken Asians, a job in a sweatshop was an aspiration they held for their children.

pp. 96 4. It is perhaps ironic that mill workers became more independent, and less ideal workers for the textile trade — yet better workers for industries requiring initiative, decision making, and ______.

p. 99 5. Countries that have ______ the race to the bottom are some of the most advanced economies in the world today.


p. 104 7. Today, the most prominent health and safety issue in the apparel and textile industry is ________.

p. 107 8. The bottom is ________. Yuan Zhi is ready.

ANSWER BANK: lost; child; teamwork; hukou; Thunder; ergonomics; rising; floating.

MINI-ESSAY:

Lewis Hine's photograph Girl Worker in a Cotton Mill (1908) has reached iconic status. Go to the website behindthelabel.org and read about sweatshops today. What can we do to change things?
Travels of a T-Shirt • Pietra Rivoli

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PART III Trouble at the Border: My T-Shirt Returns to America, 108-172
7 Dogs Snarling Together, 111-138

1. The AAMA, ASA, ATMI and other textile industry associations have no ___________ without a vibrant U.S. industry. 113
2. Free trade may be the best economic policy, but it does not always make for the best _______. 115
3. The 2002 U.S.-Caribbean Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) is set to expire in _______. 118-119
4. According to Rivoli, access to the American apparel consumer has been traded for votes and _______ policy favors. 124
5. Every post-WWII U.S. President has made a campaign textile ________ to the likes of Strom Thurmond, Fritz Hollings and Jesse Helms. 126
6. In his diary, Eisenhower wrote of the "short-sightedness bordering on tragic stupidity" of the _________. 127
7. One result of the multiple quota agreements is to make the MFA a "marvel of _______ engineering." 132
8. Even after international rounds of trade liberalization talks, goods specified in the ________ of the MFA "phase-out" were often not under quota. 138

ANSWER BANK: bureaucratic; foreign; tranches; 2008; raison d'etre; promise; politics; protectionists.

MINI-ESSAY:

Much campaign rhetoric from 2008 candidates is about the bad effects of lobbyists and special interest groups — undermining the people's trust in government. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
Travels of a T-Shirt • Pietra Rivoli

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8 Perverse Effects and Unintended Consequences of T-Shirt Trade Policy

1. Textile production in the U.S. has been protected, but industry jobs have been affected by mechanization and ______ progress. 141
2. Quotas have encouraged low-end producers to shift toward high-end, high-________, expensive clothing. 144
3. Quotas are in effect ________ worth money to investors/traders. 146
4. From Aristotle to the _____ cycle of Wal-Mart, small consumer savings may not be worth the loss of social stability. 150
5. Sometimes a wall limits our fortunes; other times a wall can incite much more ______ than an open door. 152
6. To celebrate an act of Parliament that stipulated sheep's wool for _______, there was a poem:
   
   Since the living would not wear it
   They should when dead be forced to wear it.
7. By 1719, woolen weavers—all men—had begun to attack women wearing _______. 156

ANSWER BANK: options; corpses; squeeze; margin; creativity; technological; calicoes.

9 40 Years of "Temporary" Protectionism Ends in 2005—And China Takes All

1. Divergent interests create complex trade ______ outcomes. 158
2. Post-9/11, George W. Bush's negotiations with Pakistan during the "real" war in Afghanistan resulted in his having to ______ before U.S. textiles did. 161
3. Though he answered "no" to all five of AMTAC's survey questions, Jim DeMint, an almost ________ free trader, was elected in 2004 as Senator from S. Carolina. 164
4. Retailers perceived China to be the ________ of the global apparel industry. 166
5. Cambodia offers retailers a "sweat-free" socially ________ choice. 170
6. At Georgetown University, students won codes of conduct for factories producing university—_______ apparel. 171

ANSWER BANK: gazelle; licensed; policy; rabid; blink; responsible.
Travels of a T-Shirt - Pietra Rivoli

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PART IV  My T-Shirt Finally Encounters a Free Market

10 Where T-Shirts Go After The Salvation Army Bin, 175-187
1. The U.S. has had merchandise trade deficits for more
   than 25 years, but has consistently exported ____________
clothing. 176
2. The global used clothing industry features small
   business owners who can pick out special”_________” 178
3. Shredded T-Shirts are contained in cars and ____________ 187

11 How Small Entrepreneurs Clothe East Africa with
   Old American T-Shirts, 188-210
1. Almost all the men and boys in Dar Es Salaam wear ____________
clothing thrown away by Americans and Europeans. 190
2. Mini-auctions at bale-breaking parties have many buyers, perfect information,
   excellent price ____________, and good fun. 194
3. At the beginning of Tanzania's socialist movement, self-reliance
   ideologues believed that wearing the white world’s castoffs was ___________ 197
4. Textile factories in Africa suffer from corruption, political risk, low
   education levels, insecure property rights, ____________ instability, and
   ineffective commercial codes — in a phrase, bad governance. 200
5. Charities are ill-equipped to provide the sorting, ____________, and
   distribution functions necessary to provide clothing disaster relief. 203
6. Mitumba trade may be more democratizing than the “__________
   still common in much of Africa. 204
7. The average American throws away about 68 pounds of clothing and
   textiles per year, 85 percent making up 4 percent of________ space. 206
8. The used clothing trade is a dance of the gazelles with no
   protection from the ___________. 208

ANSWER BANK: Shameful; landfill; mitumba; macroeconomic; lions;
   recycled; grading; caskets; kleptocracies; snowflakes; discovery.

CONCLUSION, 211-215

MINI-ESSAY: Is the morality of simple market competition and
   cooperation the best/easiest way to "keep the peace" in the world?
**Travels of a T-Shirt**

**Name:**

**Course:**

**Conclusion, 211-215: Mini-Essay Response**

**Epilogue to the Paperback Edition, 216-218**

**Mini-Essay:** As a postscript to your answer above, comment on the "bra wars" and Maginot Line mindset of the quota system supporters. Must political and economics strategies always lead to battle tactics?

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THE TRAVELS OF A T-SHIRT IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: PIETRA RIVOLI

CRITICAL THINKING RESPONSES

1. EXEGESIS (definition, explanation): Rivoli cites economist Karl Polanyi's "double movement" concept, in which market forces on the one hand were met by demands for social protection on the other (Preface, xv; end note, The Great Transformation, 1944). She believes the T-shirt's story is more in tune with Peter Dougherty, who argued that markets depend for their survival on backlash (Who's Afraid of Adam Smith, 2002). What is your definition of higher education?

2. EXPLICATION (close, critical reading): In The Lexus and the Olive Tree (2000) Thomas Friedman describes winners in globalization as both lions and gazelles. Rivoli applies this idea to American cotton growers (52-53), then to U.S.-China trade relations (115), and China in the global apparel industry (166). Just for good measure, Rivoli throws in her own characterization of lobbyists for Southern textile interests as "dinosaurs" of the industry (122). What are some other animals that are used to capture behaviors in human interactions?

3. ANALYSIS (identifying the parts of the whole): China's floating workers, rural migrants, are in trouble if they qualify for the "three not haves" (sanwu renyuan) - no papers, no job, no address (89). In the 1970s, workers/families in China needed "three things that run" - a radio, a bicycle, and a sewing machine. Nothing is as American as mom's apple pie. Artifacts/objects are often used to represent a simplified analysis of complex cultural relationships. What items/things do you think depict or portray youth culture among your peers?

4. INTERPRETATION (a view from outside a work, subject): Comment on the author's editorializing — accuracy, fairness, honesty.
   p. 8 Today's proponents - things to hide.
   p. 152 More broadly, trade barriers - blow the future apart.
   p. 164 The master narrative - is only partly true.
   p. 204 The notion that - many other industries.
5. COMPARISON/CONTRAST (within the work, other works by the same author, other authors, same/other genre, other disciplines, etc.): Rivoli cites an observation about a declining industrial center, Manchester, England, where, "In and around the ruins of an empire, kids are dancing" (97, Schlosser, "Urban Life" 1998). Later, she combines this borrowed image with her own creative version of Friedman’s idea — “The used clothing trade is a dance of the gazelles with no protection from the lions. It is a marvel to watch” (208).

A fuller contrast is explored about the divide between men’s and women’s clothing in used goods (191), and then “formal” and “informal” sectors of African economics (201).

How does the use of comparison/contrast dramatize and reveal information in a fresh way? Cite other examples from your reading, film, music and/or personal experiences.

6. EVALUATION (judging based on criteria): Pietra Rivoli’s T-Shirt depends on rigorous academic inquiry, meticulous field research/documentation, and a reporter’s instinct for a good story. The rules of these methods demand that she try to be fair, balanced, and candid, but they also give her license to speculate, editorialize, and even rhapsodize. Her conclusion postulates that political machinery and personal activism are a dynamic duo — they help make the social contract work. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

* Exegesis and explication are often used in a broader context that sometimes includes interpretation.

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