Working Thesis: Sweatshop workers suffer from extreme stress, the risk of being exposed to danger, the lack of education and are susceptible to living a poorer life. In order to make a positive change to the current situation, consumers have to be aware of the impacts of their purchases and stop supporting companies that neglect the rights of their workers.

Sweatshops: Ethically Inacceptable

An Annotated Bibliography


This article’s discussion circulates around the strikes that took place in the Bursa region after the implementation of strict regulations at silk factories. The article discusses the similarities between the silk factories in the 20th century and the modern day sweatshops, which are similar in the ways in which they operate. In short, the silk factory workers demanded an increase in wage, decrease in working hours as well as exemption
from paying profit tax. After having all their requests rejected, a group of workers went on strike in August 1910, which was not successful in the end.

This source is credible because it an academic journal, which is devoted to the Turkish history from the 6th century to the 20th century. The author of this article is also knowledgeable in the field of Turkish history. This article is a scholarly article as its contents and arguments are supported by citations and accounts from the event itself. However, I could not figure out whether the journal is peer reviewed or not. This article discusses an event that took place in the past but has similar patterns and arguments to the topic of my research paper. The contents of this article will contribute to the introduction part of my research paper in which the sequence and progress of anti-sweatshop movements will be discussed.


This source discusses impractical and unsuitable working practices in sweatshops operating in third world countries. The sweatshops discussed in this article are those operated by US merchandise manufacturing companies. The article introduced sweatshops as factories with harsh and dangerous working environment, where the workers are paid less than the typical minimum wage for factory workers. It also discusses the moral objection of certain sweatshop practices that are deemed illogical and not supported by a lot of people. Besides that, this article includes discussions on the reasons why some people fall prey to companies that exploit their workers.
This source is reliable because it is a scholarly article that is quarterly peer-reviewed. It is also reliable because the author of this source is an economist who has multiple degrees, one of which is from The Harvard Business School. The author’s main field is economics and how it has affected the world in the 21st century. Other than that, the article’s arguments and points are supported by citations, therefore this article is a secondary source. This source will also contribute to my research as it discusses sweatshops and how it has changed the lives of the workers from various angles.


This source focuses on the relationship between global sports brands and the violation of their workers rights, specifically those under the manufacturing section. It specifically discusses the impacts the sweatshops operated by these sports brands on the development opportunities for the workers in the Asian region. It also discusses the factors behind the dramatic increase in reports on the infringement of workers’ rights in Asia among industrial workers of global and multinational brands.

This article a scholarly secondary source, which makes it a reliable and legitimate source. It is published under the *Journal of Asian Studies*, which is quarterly peer-reviewed. This journal is published by the Cambridge University Press. The currency of this source will very much contribute to my research topic as it discusses the recent major infringement of human rights by factory operators. The article was published in 2014, which makes it current and updated.

This source discusses the responsibility of sweatshop owners and operators on their employees, who are subjected to extremely long working hours with meager wages. This article discusses the reasons why sweatshop workers are the victims of exploitation despite the fact that both the employer and employees benefit from the operation of these sweatshops. The scope of discussion of this article is sweatshops under the textile and clothing industry. It also circulates around the ethics of exploitation although it may not be wrong and harmful in all situations. This article discusses the various forms of exploitation, which includes taking unfair advantage over a certain group of people.

This is a reliable source as it comes from a journal, which is the *Journal of Social Philosophy*. It is an academic journal of social philosophy and its peer-reviewed once every three months. This means that the articles published in this journal are scholarly articles and widely referenced for research purposes. It is worth noting that this journal is the official journal of the North American Society for Social Philosophy. The publisher of this journal, John Wiley & Sons is the publisher of one of the most cited journals in the world. This article would be highly beneficial to my research topic as it specifically discusses obligations of exploiting companies due to the adverse impacts they have caused on their workers.

This source began its discussion by mentioning the amount of support as well as backlash the operation of sweatshops have received from the public. It discusses the anti-sweatshop movements that gained fame after many consumers realize the unethical values that sweatshops operate on. The article also discusses the reasons behind the rise of those movements. The article successfully stressed on the basic human rights that are violated by most sweatshop operators for their companies’ benefits.

This article is a scholarly secondary source as it is an article that is written for an academic audience. It is published under *The Journal of Social Philosophy*. It is an academic journal of social philosophy and its peer-reviewed once in every three months. This means that the articles published in this journal are scholarly articles and widely referenced for research purposes. The discussions in the article are strongly related to the issue that my research essay will address. Therefore, it will make a great contribution to my research essay.


This article discusses the loopholes and flaws in the labor laws and regulations in poor countries where sweatshops manufacturing garments and apparels operate. The article also explores the role played by sweatshops in the economic development of wealthy countries and the role of labor laws in improvement of working conditions.
article also explains the stark similarities between old and new sweatshops by comparing the hourly wage, average hours of shift and several other factors. It also includes discussions on calls for reformation of labor laws and regulations after a series of collapse of factories and sweatshops.

This is a scholarly secondary source as it is published under an academic journal, which is the *Independent Review*. This journal, like most academic journals are peer reviewed relatively frequently. This journal, specifically, is peer-reviewed four times a year and covers political economy. This is also a legitimate source, as the author, Benjamin Powell is an economist who has a Ph. D. in economics. This proves that the author is an expert in his field and his arguments are reliable.


This book discusses the movements and resistance against sweatshops in the United States of America (USA) and includes personal recounts of garment workers who have been subjected to severe treatments while working in the sweatshops. The book aims to address and change consumers’ views on how they can stop the torment of sweatshop workers, especially in the fashion and garment production industry. Besides that, it also discusses the economics of the sweatshop as well as the history of sweatshops in the USA. Apart from that, this book specifically mentioned brands like Tommy Hilfiger and Nike and the negative impacts their brands have brought towards the lives of the garment workers for their factories.
This book is a scholarly secondary source. It is written for both the academic and general audience. It is considered a scholarly source because the articles are backed up by proper citations. The editor of the book, Andrew Ross, is a Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University. He is an expert in the field of social and cultural analysis and therefore the arguments and articles in the book are legitimate. This book will play a big role in shaping the arguments for my research essay as it is packed with various personal recounts. This book was published almost twenty years ago, but not a lot of changes have taken place in the manufacturing industry since then. Therefore, the arguments presented in the book are still valid.


This article’s discussion circulates around the investigation performed on 57 female workers at a battery plant. One conclusion made at the end of the investigation is that the female workers in that factory suffer from prolonged and abnormal menstruations and hypermenorrhea. A few other female workers, who are not part of the investigation mentioned before, also faced serious health issues and have reported spontaneous abortions. A general conclusion from the investigation is that the lead exposure from prolonged hours in the factory has lead to the impairment of the female workers’ reproductive systems.

This is a reliable source as it is an academic article. This makes the article a scholarly secondary source. The article would very much contribute to my research essay.
as the whole article discusses solely the effects of poor and unsafe working conditions on women. The journal under which the article is published, the *International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health*, is an authoritative resource that delivers up to date clinical and research information on the promotion of health in the workplace. This journal is dependable as it has a journal impact of 1.10 on average for the past few years.