



SUSTAINABILITY

**The Economic & Social Effects of the Lack of Sustainability in
the Fashion Industry**

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Overview



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The Impact of the Clinton Administration

B

The Clean-Up

C

Unfair Minimum Wages and its Effects

D

The Fashion Industry's Consumption of Fossil Fuels



The Impact of the Clinton Administration



United States-China Relations Act of 2000

- Mao Zedong's , "Great Leap Forward", & industrialization in China
- China decides to operate politically as a communist party, however capitalist economically.
- Richard Nixon discussed potential economic benefits with China.
- Potential conversion to some form of democracy.
- The Clinton Administration passed the United States-China Relations Act of 2000.
- China has broken many of its rules regarding the deal.

4 Areas of Concern & How the United States-China Relations Act of 2000

1 Effects the Fashion Industry

China's lack of environmental rules results in a huge amount of hazardous gases released into the world that effects other countries air indexes, such as the United States'.

- China is responsible for 50% of global greenhouse admissions.
- The fashion industry is responsible for 10% of global greenhouse admissions.
- China has nearly 44,000 companies in the textile industry.



4 Areas of Concern & How the United States-China Relations Act of 2000

Effects the Fashion Industry

Counterfeiting & Piracy

- You have to adhere to China's rules and not the United States.
- Ruth Brons' legal battle with China after finding out that two factories were manufacturing her product and selling it at a fraction of the price.
- In 2018, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Trade, China is responsible for 87% of all counterfeit ports founded in U.S. ports.
- When Chinese companies create counterfeits, they are taking the quality out of the product and replacing it with cheaper or sometimes harmful materials to the environment and/or human health.



4 Areas of Concern & How the United States-China Relations Act of 2000

Effects the Fashion Industry

Human Rights and Workers Abuses

- Chinese citizens are severely violated.
- Sewers that work for Shein are paid an average of \$2.77 and a worker in West Covina made \$3.42 an hour as a sewer for TJ Maxx.
- Unionizing is considered a crime, and prison and forced labor create many Chinese products.
- Citizens can't afford better, sustainable and eco-friendly products without a decent minimum wage. They can only afford cheap products to get them by and then the money goes back in the hands of the companies thus fueling the problem.



4 Areas of Concern & How the United States-China Relations Act of 2000

Effects the Fashion Industry

Currency Manipulation

- Weaker Currency (deficit) v.s. Stronger Currency (surplus)
- Benefits of weaker currency
- China and the U.S. both act as a deficit, however China's currency is weaker solely to make cheaper products.

How do they keep their currency weak?

- The People's Bank of China
- Investment into Stocks & Treasury Notes
- Money goes back into US economy that is then spent back into the Chinese economy
- US can't break out of cycle since we owe over 30 trillion dollars

What does this mean for businesses operating in China? It means that it's harder to pull your business out of China rather than starting your business manufacturing process in China.



The Clean-Up

- Europe produces 2 million tons of textiles annually, 70% of which are shipped to African Countries.
- Slum Going Green is a group that goes out daily in Kenya to clean out areas from waste, textiles, and garbage
- 20 million kilograms of textiles are continued to be put in Kenya's Nairobi Landfill annually
- Causes a toxic environment mentally and physically for those who live there. Gangs, violence, and people trying to make ends meet gather at these landfills to resell discarded products.
- Gangs control many of the landfills such as the Nairobi landfill



The Clean-UP



The Issue

- Gangs, corrupt officials, cartels, and monopolies hold power over the landfills which results in gang wars, murders, unethical lucrative decisions, and strengthening of poverty lines.
- Western countries dump their trash in countries such as Kenya, Palestine, Ukraine, India, Ghana, and etc.

The Clean-UP

A Close Look Kenya's Mitumba and Textile Industries

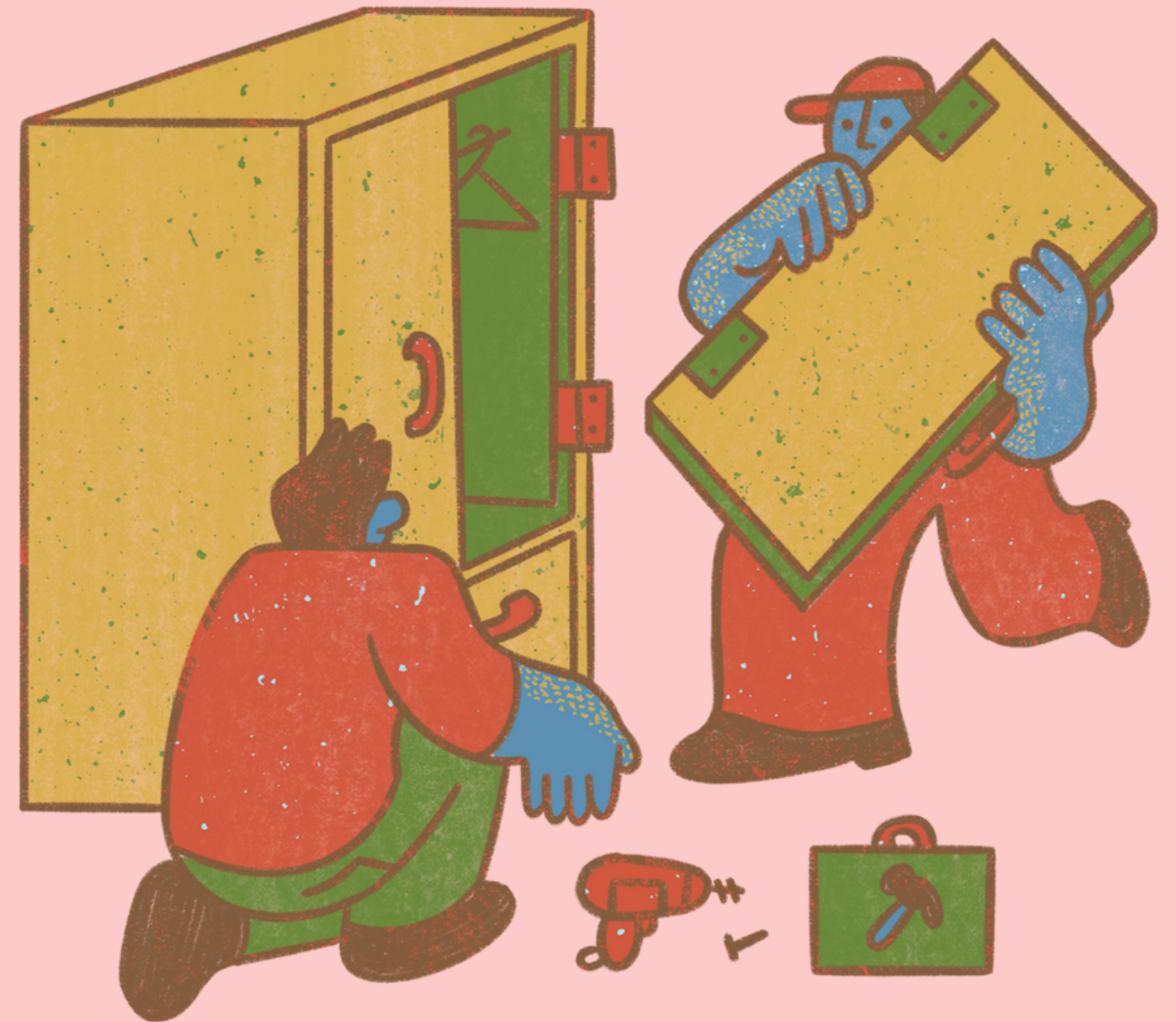
- Kenya's Toi Market & Mitumba Economy
- The Effects of Mitumba on the Kenyan Textile Industry
- Many "donated" clothing is smuggled into Kenya so that they don't have to pay tariffs.
- The collapse of the Kenyan Textile Industry and its causes



Unfair Minimum Wages & Its Effects

- The average worker's wage in the United States does not increase as inflation grows.
- The states are in charge of dictating their minimum wage

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, REPAIR



- However you feel about a company's ethics or controversies, giving money to a company is supporting a company
- Raising the minimum wage=buying quality products
- Fast Fashion companies are budget friendly but are far from ethical
- Pros & Cons of \$15 Minimum Wage



The Fashion Industry's Consumption of Fossil Fuels

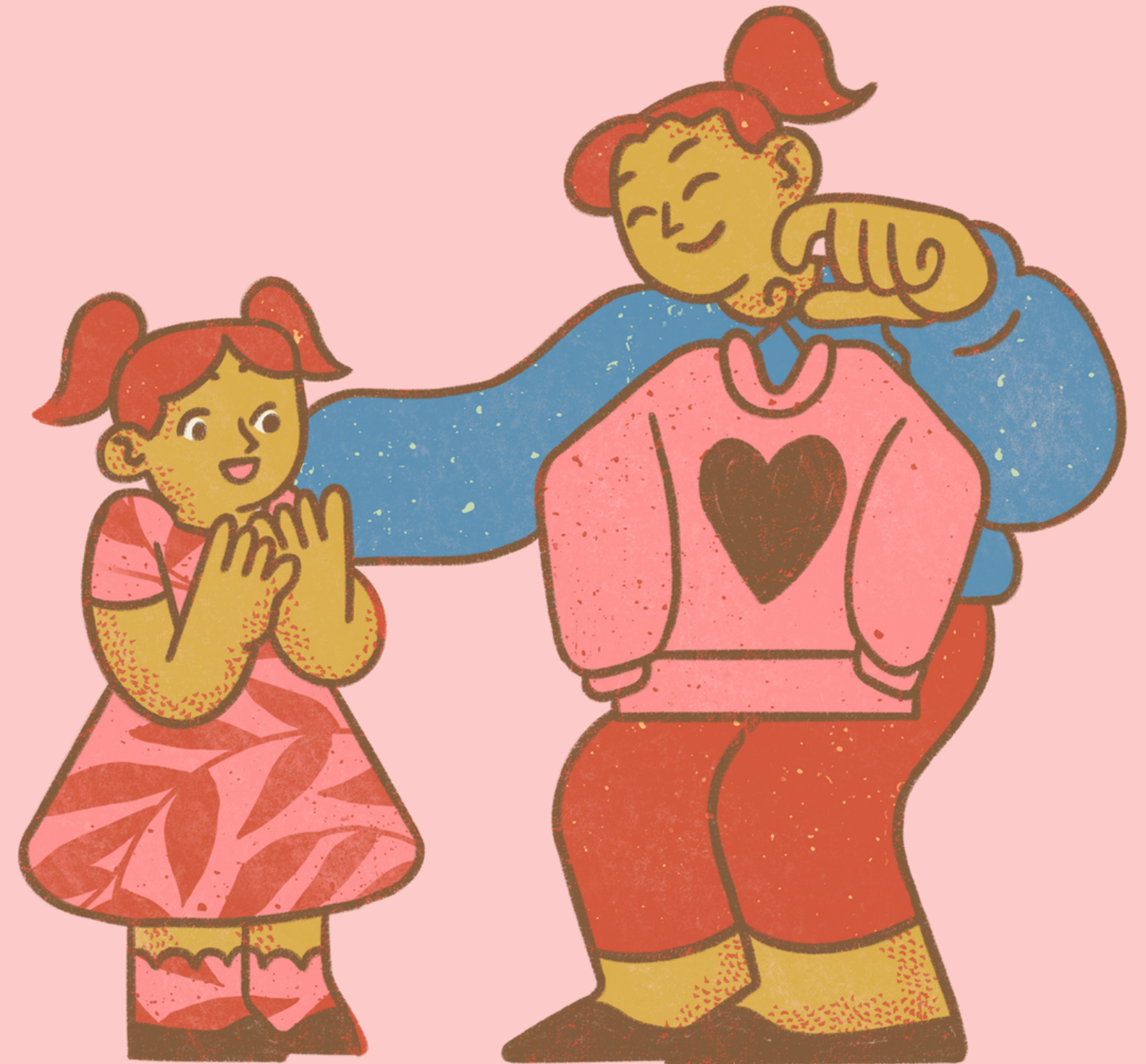


Reliance on Fossil Fuels

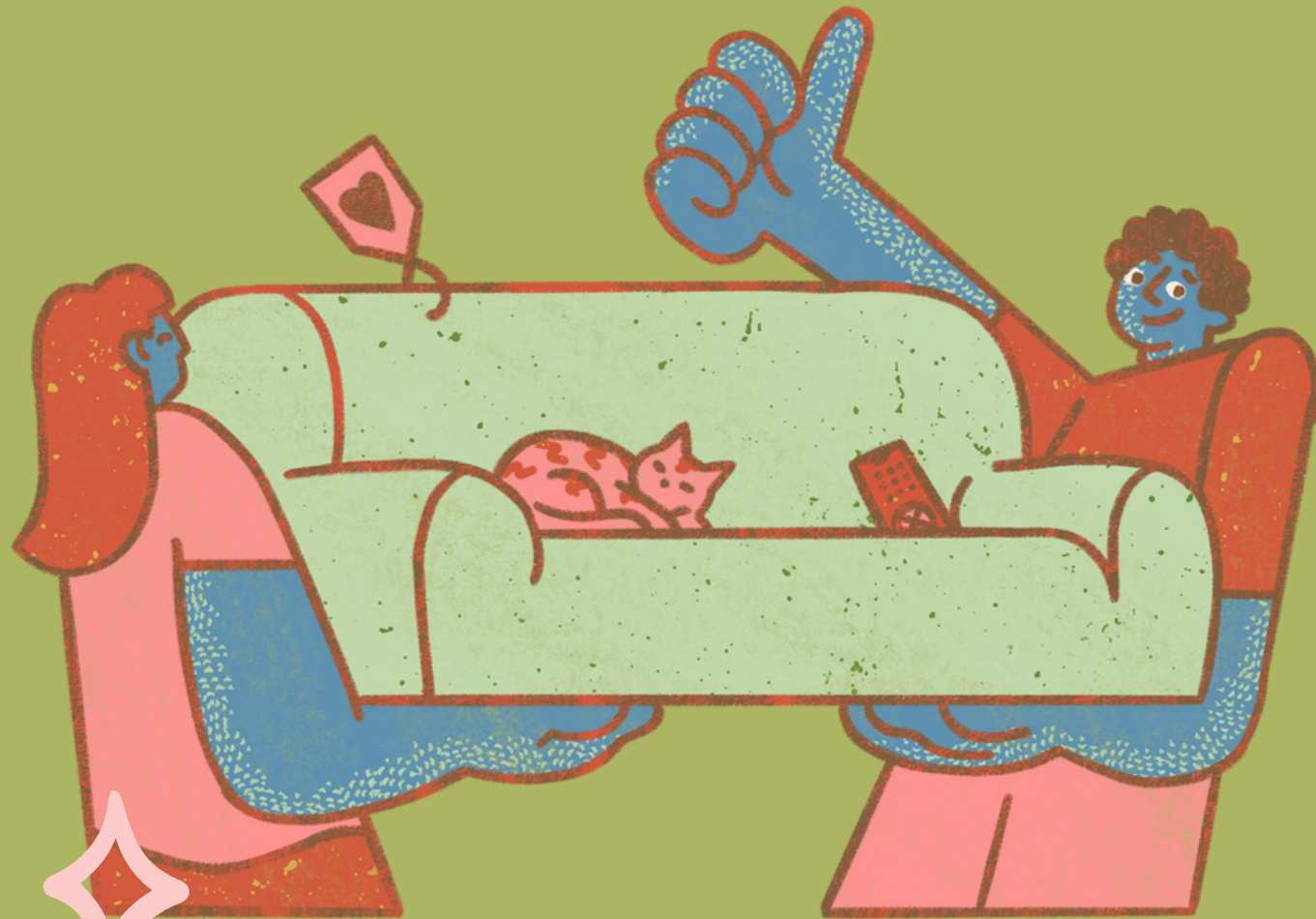
- Uses cheap synthetic fibers such as polyester=low quality garments
- Production of synthetic fibers accounts for 1.35% of the global oil consumption
- Polyester, neon, elastane, and acrylic are prominent synthetic materials.
- “Microfibers are found throughout ocean ecosystems, with a recent study discovering that 73% of microfibre pollution in formerly pristine Arctic waters is from synthetic fibres that could be coming from textiles. Graver still, microplastics have even been found in the placentas of unborn babies, affecting the human body in ways that are not yet fully understood” (Changing Markets Foundation 8).

Summary & Final Thoughts

- Companies, go green!
- Keep it in the states!
- Buy quality, not quantity!
- Know who your electing, their values, and their call to action plan!
- Boycott unethical goods!
- Thrift & avoid synthetic fibers



IF YOU CAN'T REDUCE



THEN REUSE

**Thank
you!**

"Good design is sustainable design"- Imran Amad

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