



Discussion Guide for "Unraveled: The Life and Death of a Garment" by Maxine Bédard

1. How do domestic agricultural policies factor into fashion brand supply chains?
2. On page 36, Bédard writes "History shows us just how good we humans are at ignoring pending catastrophes – until, as recent history has shown, we're literally stopped in our tracks." To what recent history is Bédard referring to? Do you agree or disagree that humans ignore pending catastrophes?
3. On page 59, Bédard writes "Will increasing investment in apparel ultimately hinder Bangladesh's development, or can our clothes be the path to upward mobility...?" What are your thoughts?
4. The diagram on page 226 illustrates similarities between the trade lines of used clothes and former trade lines of slavery, cotton, and sugar. How has history and industrialization influenced how society operates today?
5. What is neoliberalism and how does it fit into the themes discussed in Unraveled?
6. Chapters three, four, and five examine the workforce throughout the fashion supply chain internationally and domestically. How has technology and demand for clothing changed over time? What does that mean for how we think about clothing and the labor required to create it?
7. What does "sustainability" mean in terms of the production of clothing?
8. In Unraveled, Ms. Bédard discusses several current issues such as COVID19, racial injustice, climate change, unionization, and wage inequality. How are these issues related to the clothing industry as Ms. Bédard presents it? How have each of these issues influenced the production of clothing? Is there one you think has a bigger influence than the others?
9. What was your understanding of the secondhand clothing market prior to reading Unraveled? What were your thoughts while reading chapters seven and eight?
10. What were your take aways from Unraveled? How do you feel about the arguments presented? What will your next steps be?