

Industrialization/Globalization

Introduction:

Americans are the number one consumers of goods on the face of the planet. We accumulate so much “stuff” that we fill up our garages, attics and even rent storage units to house our excess.

The purpose of this activity is to illustrate how the items in your house reflect the globalization of economic production. Based on the idea of spatially fixed and spatially varied costs, corporations will search for the lowest production costs in order to increase profits. Increasingly, the cost of labor is the driving force in the migration of production centers to less developed countries. Keeping production costs allows producers to sell goods at affordable costs to more developed countries and still realize a profit.

Instructions:

1. Select 30 items in your home (electronics, appliances, clothing, furniture, etc.) and list the item, a general category (electronics, clothing, etc.) and where each was produced.
2. Analyze the data you have collected. Where was most of your stuff produced? Is there a correlation between the types of items and the location of their production? Are there any results you did not expect? Is there a relationship between the costs of goods and the production location? How much of your stuff was made in the U.S? Does quality influence the location of production? Does the type of item influence the location of production?
3. Write up a description of how the items in your home reflect the globalization of economic production. Look at the countries that come up in your chart and refer to Chapters 9 and 11 in your textbook to find helpful information (for example, maquiladoras, Wal-Mart and so forth.)
4. Fill in the map illustrating the flow of goods into your home. Add up the number of times that products in your household were manufactured in a particular country. Write the number on or next to that country. If a country did not produce any goods in your household, leave it blank.

Turn in the following:

1. Minimum 2-page written analysis of your items related to topics covered in text and class. **Must be typed and double spaced.**
2. The filled out map.
3. List of 30 items. Describe what the item is and what country it was manufactured in. This can be handwritten (please be neat)