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# Fixing Fashion: Rethinking the Way We Make, Market and Buy Our Clothes

*Michael Lavergne*

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**Michael Lavergne : Fixing Fashion: Rethinking the Way We Make, Market and Buy Our Clothes** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fixing Fashion: Rethinking the Way We Make, Market and Buy Our Clothes:

With sales of more than five hundred billion US dollars a year, the fashion industry is one of the most important

sectors of the global economy, employing millions of men, women, and often children in the developing world. And yet its record is far from pretty. The collapse of Bangladesh's Rana Plaza with some thirty-five hundred desperately underpaid garment workers inside was a shocking example of what can go wrong when manufacturers ruthlessly cut costs while turning a blind eye to labor rights and workplace safety. Written by an apparel industry insider, *Fixing Fashion* argues that the true legacy of Rana Plaza is increased awareness of how cheap, disposable clothing has led to serious community, environmental, and labor rights abuses. Ethical supply chain professional Michael Lavergne explores: The birth of the global apparel trade, from colonialism and slavery to today's neoliberal trade agenda How the infamous race to the bottom has led to some of the worst social and environmental excesses in the global apparel industry The rise of a new breed of entrepreneurs and stakeholders driving change and transparency across international supply chains By taking a hard look at the very real impacts of our consumer culture's addiction to disposable fashion, *Fixing Fashion* challenges each of us to take full responsibility for understanding the hidden cost of our clothes. Michael Lavergne is an ethical supply chain professional committed to sustainable fashion industry and the protection of labor, environmental and human rights in the developing world.

A rare insider's globetrotting tour of the ethically challenged, complex, contradictory, and maddening global fashion industry. If you've ever wondered how an industry with so much potential to do so much good could permit thousands of vulnerable workers to needlessly die at Rana Plaza in Bangladesh, read Michael Lavergne's highly personal wakeup call. --Dr. David Doorey Professor of Labour Law and Supply Chain Governance, York University, Toronto *Fixing Fashion* offers brilliant insight into all that is broken in the apparel industry. Michael Lavergne's brave and honest telling of what really goes on behind the scenes is an eye-opener that fuels the impetus for change. His thorough political and historical depiction that spans centuries from the roots of global trade, the gross exploitation of textile workers and the Industrial revolution, to the rise of cotton, the role of advertising and consumption and all the scandals and headlines makes for a powerfully evocative narrative that is crucial to solving the many problems facing the fashion industry. In order to fix what is broken, we must first learn how it came to be broken. ---Kelly Drennan, Founding Executive Director, Fashion Takes Action A must-read for every designer and apparel executive who does not yet have full transparency in their supply chain. *Fixing Fashion* outlines how exploitation has been entrenched in the apparel industry for over a century. Lavergne then uses this historical context to map opportunities for long-term change, including a long list of change makers who are redefining fashion. ---Kate Black, author, *Magnifico: Your Head-to-Toe guide to Ethical Fashion and Non-toxic Beauty* *Fixing Fashion* is a fascinating personal and historical journey through the complex web of clothing supply chains. Author Michael Lavergne urges us to reflect on how we are linked, through that web, to people around the world (including millions of children) who are embedded in the clothes that we wear. The book is a compelling call to government, business and all of us towards increased transparency and greater action to ensure more just and sustainable supply chains. ---Harry Kits, Senior Advisor Corporate Engagement, World Vision Canada Through his seasoned and humble eyes, Michael Lavergne offers a rare glimpse into the complexities of the apparel industry in his book *Fixing Fashion*. Taking us through compelling stories from his personal experiences, and layering on news accounts of landmark human rights and environmental events in recent history, Michael invites us to question our assumptions about where our clothing comes from and how we, as consumers, can make better choices going forward. This is a must-read book for anyone who cares about the human and environmental toll of our clothing and the companies behind the labels. ---Amy Hall, Director, Social Consciousness, EILEEN FISHER Who makes our clothes? How are they designed and marketed? After the shocking Rana Plaza factory collapse in 2013, people started asking these pertinent questions. Michael Lavergne's book *Fixing Fashion* soberly dissects the 'fast fashion' industry and looks at how to fix it. This should be compulsory reading for decision makers, designers and consumers. ---Paul Dewar, Member of Parliament Ottawa Centre, Foreign Affairs Critic for the NDP Combines a captivating personal, social and political history of business, trade, marketing and politics through the lens of the global rag trade. Lavergne's unique perspective as an industry insider who has travelled the world sourcing goods for global clothing brands gives us both a first-hand view of the social and environmental problems in apparel manufacturing as well as a deep understanding of why they persist. Lavergne's account will inform and inspire students of business and international development as well as present and future business leaders who will be called upon to tackle the serious and complex problems he uncovers. Thankfully Lavergne's detailed account also points towards paths for change. ---Kevin Thomas, LLM | Director of Shareholder Engagement, SHARE - Shareholder Association for Research Education In *Fixing Fashion*, Michael Lavergne offers a rare insider view of how the globalized garment industry works and why worker rights abuses are so endemic to that industry. He also offers hope that fundamental change is possible. ---Bob Jeffcott, Policy Analyst, Maquila Solidarity Network