BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

Insulting Offers & Sweatshops

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?

2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Reading

- Chris Meyers, "Wrongful Beneficence, Exploitation, and Third World Sweatshops".

Questions

1. Meyers presents four conditions (P1, P2, P3, and P4) that seem to justify the morality of sweatshops. Put these four conditions into your own words and explain why sweatshops may satisfy them.

2. Meyers presents Jason's entrepreneurial enterprise: The Desert Rescue Service. (**Trigger Warning:** This is a graphic example, think *Fifty Shades of Grey*. In class, I will refer to what Jason demands simply as "the payment". No need to go into all the details.) Why is Jason not technically a rapist? Why do Jason's actions satisfy P1–P4? Even so, what is Meyers' argument to show that Jason's actions are nevertheless immoral and exploitative?

3. Meyers repeatedly says that he is not making an argument by analogy. If so, what does his example of Jason have to do with sweatshops? In particular, why does this example suggest that they exploit their workers?