DEBATE TOPIC:

Resolved: Boycotting the "Fast Fashion" Industry would be desirable.

Image: How Fast Fashion is Destroying the Planet (New York Times, September 3, 2019) [Link]

Additional Research: Fast Fashion (ChatGPT)

BACKGROUND:

What Is Fast Fashion? Fast fashion is the term used to describe clothing designs that move quickly from the catwalk to stores to take advantage of trends. The collections are often based on styles presented at Fashion Week runway shows or worn by celebrities. Fast fashion allows mainstream consumers to purchase the hot new look or the next big thing at an affordable price. Fast fashion describes low-priced but stylish clothing that moves quickly from design to retail stores to meet trends, with new collections being introduced continuously. Innovations in supply chain management among retailers make fast fashion possible. [PRO] On the downside, fast fashion is also associated with pollution, waste, the promulgation of a "disposable" mentality, low wages, and unsafe workplaces. [CON] Fast fashion's benefits are affordable prices and instant gratification for consumers, more profits for companies, and the democratization of stylish clothing. -- Fast Fashion Explained and How It Impacts Retail Manufacturing (Investopedia, September 16, 2022)

There is that old saying, usually attributed to Yves Saint Laurent: "Fashion fades, style is eternal." Literally speaking, that actually may no longer be true, especially when it comes to fast fashion. Fast-fashion brands may not design their clothing to last (and they don't), but as artifacts of a particularly consumptive era, they might become an important part of the fossil record. More than 60 percent of fabric fibers are now synthetics, derived from fossil fuels, so if and when our clothing ends up in a landfill (about 85 percent of textile waste in the United States goes to landfills or is incinerated), it will not decay.
-- How Fast Fashion Is Destroying the Planet (New York Times, September 3, 2019)

REQUIRED RESEARCH (VIDEOS & MEDIA):

The world is paying a high price for cheap clothes,
CNN, May 3, 2020 [3 min]
https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/03/business/cheap-clothing-fast-fashion-climate-change-intl/index.html

How Shein's Low Pricing Is a Huge Cost To Us All
TIME Magazine, January 24, 2023 [4 min]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iAUOPSOc7A

The true cost of fast fashion,
The Economist, February 27, 2019 [7 min]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLfNUD0-8ts

REQUIRED RESEARCH (ARTICLES):

Fast Fashion Explained and How It Impacts Retail Manufacturing
Dr. Adam Hayes, Investopedia, September 16, 2022
https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fast-fashion.asp

Here's What Forever 21's Bankruptcy Could Mean for the Future of Fast Fashion
TIME Magazine, October 3, 2019 [PDF]
https://time.com/5691340/forever-21-bankruptcy-explained/

Shein Is the World's Most Popular Fashion Brand—at a Huge Cost to Us All
TIME Magazine, January 17, 2023 [PDF]
https://time.com/6247732/shein-climate-change-labor-fashion/

How Fast Fashion Is Destroying the Planet,
Tatiana Schlossberg, New York Times, September 3, 2019 [PDF]
https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/03/books/review/how-fast-fashion-is-destroying-the-planet.html

OPTIONAL RESEARCH (ARTICLES & VIDEOS):

Fast fashion - The shady world of cheap clothing,
DW Documentary, February 11, 2022 [42 min]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhPPP_w3kNo

Harvard's Fast-Fashion Crisis
Harvard Crimson, Harvard University, March 9, 2021
https://www.thecrimson.com/column/granola-advocacy/article/2021/3/9/silverman-harvard-fast-fashion/

The fast fashion cheat sheet: Everything you need to know,
World of Fashion Exchange, June 23, 2022
https://www.worldfashionexchange.com/blog/the-fast-fashion-cheat-sheet-everything-you-need-to-know/

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