Empty Mills

The Fight Against Imports and the Decline of the U.S. Textile Industry

Timothy J. Minchin
# Contents

Acknowledgments ix  
Abbreviations xi  
Introduction 1  

1 A Troubled Industry in an Era of Prosperity 19  
2 Mobilizing Against the Import Threat 45  
3 Import Escalation and the Buildup to H.R. 1562 67  
4 The Most Important Battle: The Fight to Pass the 1985 Textile Bill 91  
5 A Resounding Blow: The 1987 and 1990 Textile Bills 126  
6 "Us Is Spelled U.S.": The Crafted with Pride in the USA Campaign 160  
7 Looking Beyond Our Borders: The Industry in the Era of NAFTA and GATT 185  
8 A Tidal Wave: The Collapse of the Industry in the New Millennium 211  
9 Fighting Back: Lowell, Massachusetts, and the Long Battle against Deindustrialization in the North 247  
10 "It Knocked This City to Its Knees": A Case Study of Deindustrialization in Kannapolis, North Carolina. 279  

Epilogue 303  
Bibliography 313  
Index 325