

Leather

By: Mark Ozkuyumcu

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Largest Producer

- China is the number one producer of leather
- Chinese leather industry produces nearly 4 billion square feet of leather per year - more than doubling the production of 2nd place Brazil at 1.7 billion square feet.



Trade

- Most of the leather produced in China is sent over to the United States
- China was the leading exporter of personal leather goods to the United States in 2019, with exports of around 339.7 million U.S. dollars.



Corporations

- Fengan Leather CO. is one of the biggest leather producing corporations in China with around
- They distribute their leather based on the following

United States - 46.2% Shipments

Canada - 30.8% Shipments

Dominican Republic - 15.4% Shipments

Mexico - 7.7% Shipments

How it's Produced



- Cows are killed and stripped of their skin.
- They take the skin and immediately put salt to preserve it while it is shipped to the factory.
- Once at the factory, they put it through a Fleshing Machine to get rid of all the unwanted fleshy matter and hair.
- After the fleshing machine, a series of workers have to trim the edges with a serrated knife to keep the thickness of the leather consistent.

How it's Produced



- After it is trimmed it is put into a machine to tan, this is why there are different colors of leather.
- After the tanning machine, it is put into a dehydrator to completely remove all the moisture.
- This is the end of the production process, it is now sent to a grader to sort based on the grain, color, quality, and thickness.

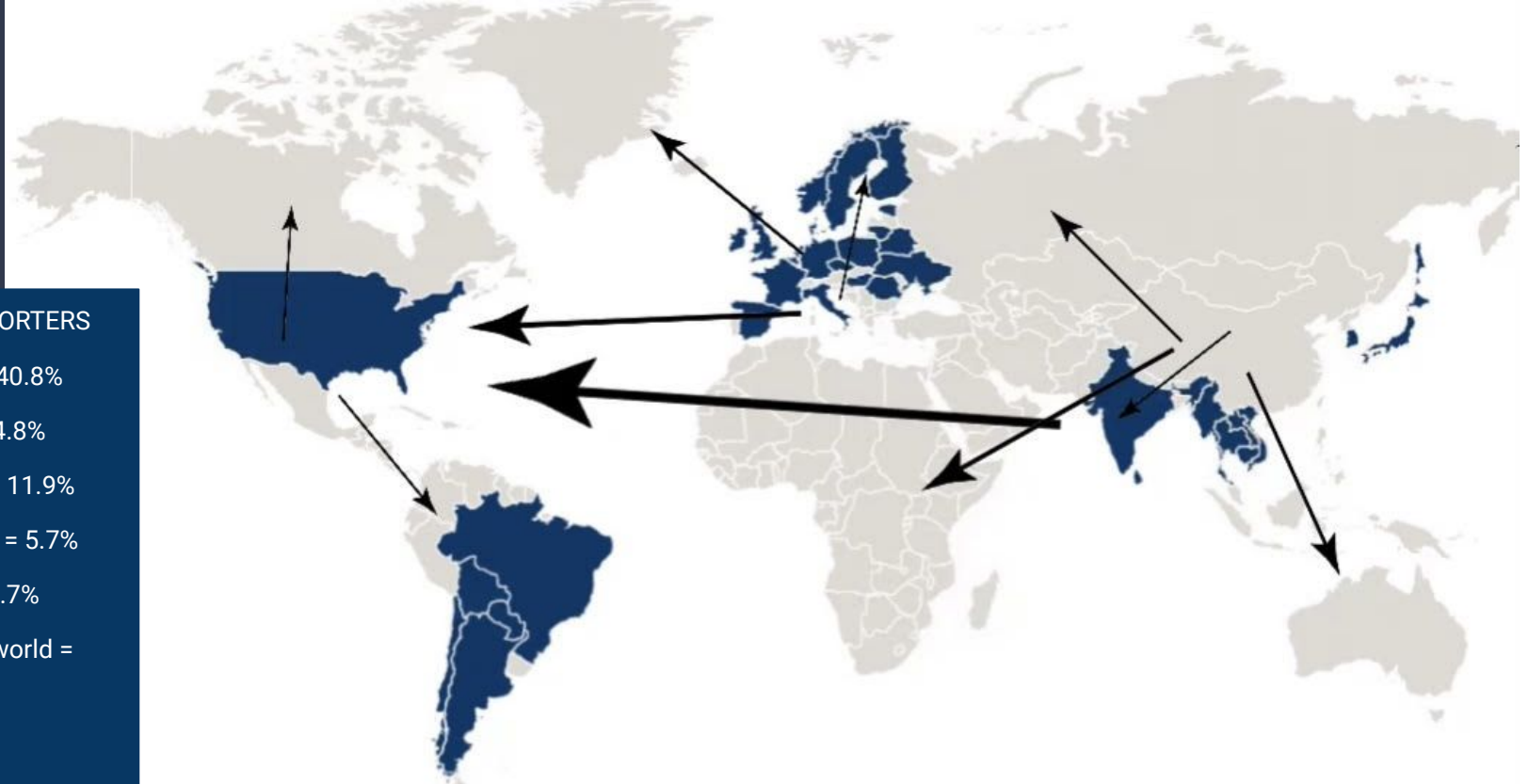
Social Movements

-Literally bringing cows into super markets in the UK to raise awareness of who they are harming.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2015/aug/10/protesting-farmers-take-cows-into-asda-super-market-video>



Visual Map



TOP EXPORTERS

- China = 40.8%
- Italy = 14.8%
- France = 11.9%
- Vietnam = 5.7%
- India = 2.7%
- Rest of world = 24.5%

Commodity Fetishism

“In Karl Marx's critique of political economy, commodity fetishism is the perception of certain relationships not as relationships among people, but as social relationships among things.”

-Advertisements such as this Louis Vuitton handbag collection don't mention the information about workers or their labor.



Demands & Desires

Demands: Shoes, Clothing, Football



Desires: Luxury items such as car interiors, hand bags/wallets



Injustice in Production



PETA / Karremann

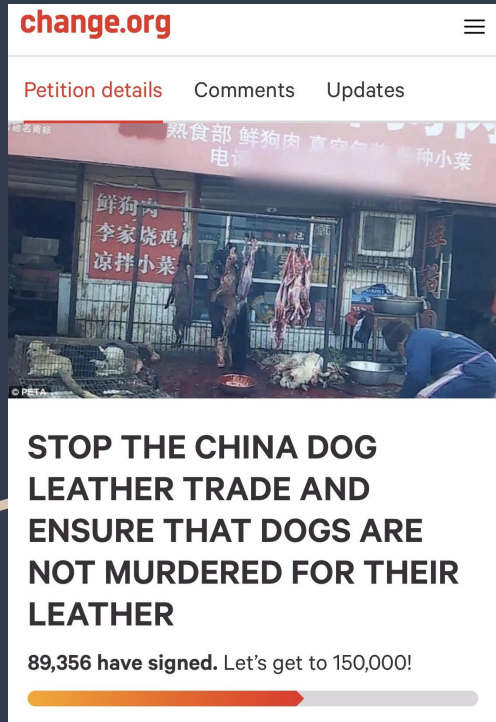
- Many factories have been using the same machines for 30+ years which is when you can notice significant damage to the machine parts.
- The salt preservative has many other chemicals within it, some being formaldehyde, and coal-tar derivatives, which can cause diseases to the workers.
- In countries such as China and India, the training isn't like how the U.S. trains their employees.

Injustice in Trade



- 40.8% of leather trade comes from China however, this is inaccurate due to small illegal businesses.
- These small illegal businesses do not have licenses to Kill cows and produce Leather.
- China law enforcement doesn't do anything to stop these businesses.
- If the trade percentage exceeds 50% it is considered a monopoly which is unfair to the rest of the world.

How to Help stop these Businesses



change.org

Petition details Comments Updates

熟食部 鲜狗肉 真空包装 各种小菜
电话

鲜狗肉
李家烧鸡
凉拌小菜

STOP THE CHINA DOG LEATHER TRADE AND ENSURE THAT DOGS ARE NOT MURDERED FOR THEIR LEATHER

89,356 have signed. Let's get to 150,000!

- Some of these small businesses are taking stray dogs and killing them illegally for their leather.
- This Canadian man created this petition on Change.org
- I did my part in creating and created an account and signed the petition to help recognize and stop this.

Sources

- <https://panjiva.com/Fengan-Leather-Co-Ltd/2308348>
- <https://www.libertyleathergoods.com/global-leather-production-overview/>
- <https://www.twinoaksbags.com/blog/best-bag-manufacturers>
- <http://www.luresext.edu/?q=content/current-problems-leather-industry>
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- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/768345/leather-goods-distribution-exports-value-by-country-world/>