

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International and Diplomatic Studies**

Academic year: **2013/2014**

Master Thesis Topic: **Security in International Relations: International cooperation to prevent non-states threats.**

Author's name: **Ekaterina Klykova**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **prof. PhDr. Zuzana Lehmannová, CSc.**

Opponent: **Ing. Zbyněk Dubský, Ph.D.**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	2
2.	Logical structure	2
3.	Using of literature, citations	1
4.	Adequacy of methods used	2
5.	Depth of analysis	2
6.	Self-reliance of author	2
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	1
8.	Language and stylistics	1

Comments and Questions:

Non state threats (proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, organized crimes etc.) are on the top of contemporary security agenda. The master thesis deals with very interesting and actual topic with a great potential for academic research and practical implementation in the field of international security in the process of globalization. The goals of the master thesis are ambitious and precisely defined, the methodological approach to the theoretical and practical part of the work is not so obviously explained and is not fully functional. The theoretical part of MT presents contemporary state of theoretical discussion about security and shortly introduces relatively great number of security terms without any relation to the second main goal – analysis of the situation in Syria through the theory which is better for non-state threats reflection. The choice of research method (in the empirical part) is not justified. It is not evident why the author is convinced, that Copenhagen School of Security is the best way to analytical reflection (nevertheless it is the first goal of MT). The Introduction only states that, “in my opinion, it will make sense to analyses the civil war in Syria through the Copenhagen School of Security because of its totally new way of conception of international security”. The attempt to real argumentation can be found in the Conclusion. The structure is consistent and coherent, but balance between the theoretical and empirical parts of MT isn't optimal. It is obvious that the case study – the focal point of MT – is in comparison to the theoretical part brief and the author often uses too long quotations which only sometimes enrich the research. MT is very descriptive and only briefly demonstrates some criticism and attempt of synthesis. The MT brings number of relevant information in the theoretical as well as in analytical part. The source material is relevant to the topic; significant part of sources are scientific publications and studies. The author is familiar with key literature in the field of security studies and prevention (including some relatively current works). On the other hand evaluation of existing literature is not thorough. The research topic is significant for the discipline of security studies and has great potential for further interpretation and research. To sum up, the master thesis is generally competently written, although some problems exist in the balance of the paper. The text is of appropriate length for and it meets the formal requirements of master thesis. Unfortunately, the author have not had enough strong will or ability to process her ambitious goals. I do recommend it to be presented to the commission and I do recommend it for the defence. Questions for the thesis defence: 1) Why is the Copenhagen School of Security the best theoretical approach to civil war case in Syria? 2) How to prevent actual non-states threats? Is international cooperation in this case really functional?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **2**

Date: 11. 06. 2014

Ing. Zbyněk Dubský, Ph.D.
Opponent