

# Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2014/2015**

Master Thesis Topic: **Role of Small States in International Relations: Comparative Analysis of the Czech Republic and Israel**

Author's name: **Bc. Aneta Hlavsová**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Radim Sršeň, Ph.D.**

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

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

## Comments and Questions:

The purpose of the master's thesis is to analyse small states' theory, to evaluate and compare the foreign policies of the two respective countries (Czech Republic and Israel) and to determine whether they behave as small states in the international arena. The main goal of the study is to analyse whether Israel and the Czech Republic indeed act as typical small states and to determine whether this hypothesis can be considered true. The master's thesis deals with very specific and ambitious topic with a great potential for practical implementation in foreign policy practice. The aim of the study is exactly defined and the purpose is justified. The methodology is only indicated in the introduction of the study. The methodological approach to the practical part of the work is not obviously explained and theoretical part seems to be summarisation of existing relevant literature based on limited selection of scholars (Keohane (1969) and Drulák, Druláková (2007)). The choice of authors seems to be random not based on the systematic analysis of the relevant theory (realism, liberal theories, constructivism ...?). The author did not evaluate existing literature in the Introduction and the master's thesis absents deeper discussion on small state definition (e.g. Hey (ed.), Small States in World Politics, Explaining Foreign Policy Behaviour). On the other hand, it can be stated, that the research process is easy to follow and the structure of the IP is logical and corresponds to the objective of the master's thesis. There is good balance between introduction, theoretical and analytical part. The analytical part is predominantly descriptive and only summarizes facts and documents wording. The master's thesis seems to suffer from trying to cover many levels of foreign policies without any clear methodological approach to the analytical part. Conclusions are brief and absent practical or theoretical outputs – not create basis for comparison. The level of referencing is appropriate, the author correctly quotes the source material is relevant to the topic. Author frequently used documents. I have no comments to formal and stylistic arrangement of the master's thesis and there are no obvious linguistic problems. The master's thesis represents a lot of the work from the author. The master's thesis meets the formal requirements, is of appropriate length and can be recommended for defence. Questions for the defence: 1) Why do you think that the Czech Republic is the country acts as a small state with its quite archetypal foreign policy tools and approaches? 2) How it could be perceived the role of the small state in the international system?

**Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.**

Suggested Grade:     **1**

Date: 24. 05. 2015

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