

Assessment of Master Thesis – Academic Consultant



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International Business - Central European Business Realities**

Academic year: **2015/2016**

Master Thesis Topic: **Financing Political Parties in Germany – the Case of Political Foundations**

Author's name: **Sebastian Paul**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Petr Vymětal, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **David Ondráčka, M.A.**

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

Comments and Questions:

The thesis deals with current discussed topic of the role of political (parties) foundations in Germany. The topic is relevant not only for IB students since its relevance to the money fundraising and political education, but also for the very close ties between the business, international relations and politics. Moreover, the topic is interesting also in the Czech Republic due to the fact there is a new draft on party financing and the opportunity of the “foundations” were discussed too. From that point I definitely appreciate the topic's choice.

And from the very beginning I have to state, to evaluate the thesis as a non-political science thesis is not easy. In general, all competencies connected with writing a theses, met the basic standard.

The author has stated a goal of the thesis, as well as subsequently formulated few questions to be answered in the conclusion. Maybe due to the fact of non-POL SCIE student, the goal is rather general and explorative (introductory), not a deep one-issue investigation. This finally shaped the structure of the thesis – it is logical, but the “introductory” chapters are more extensive than the analytical and therefore the depth of analyses is low. Description is the mostly used method in the thesis, sometimes followed by comparison. But maybe my evaluation stems from the POL SCIE lenses and I am too strict and also the fact that author has sent only one chapter for comments and has finished the thesis without any other consultation.

On the other hand, I have appreciated some fact of the author. The structure follows principle from general to more specific problems. First chapter is the theoretical background of party financing, and is followed by short history of German political parties. Third chapter describes German political foundations, but I am missing the basic rules for their functioning. The last chapter deals with the problems connected with – lack of transparency, revolving doors, meritocracy, and the international influence.

From the point of view of the content of the thesis, it suffers deeper investigation of the “bad” practices since the name and the goal promised it. From this point the last chapter is not finished and the topic promises much more. It is a pity, and it demonstrates the final phase of the work was doing in a hurry. Therefore, the goal (in my personal opinion) if fulfilled only partly and it lacks result of deeper investigation, however the majority of the questions were satisfactory answered. A deeper analysis should be devoted in my opinion to the data published in the case of political financing.

The sources used for the work are really good, however pretty limited and lot of the text is derived from one or two sources and/or long text is not quoted. The list of references is included. In the theses author presents some data in tables and figures, but they are in German. In the text there are some typing errors

(e.g. faction instead of fraction (p. 28), female instead of women (p. 58)), but the overall linguistic and grammar aspect of the thesis is at very good level.

In general and in the light of the fact the thesis is defended in the IB programme, I recommend this thesis for defend and I evaluated it by the grade "GOOD".

QUESTIONS TO THE DEFEND: 1) Can you explain why the foreign activities are so important for German political foundations? What types of activities are organized abroad mainly? 2) Are there any special rules for political foundations or are they run as s "regular" foundations? 3) Can you summarize the "misuse" of political foundations for the political purpose (not only financial aspects)? Are there any scandals in this respect?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **3**

Date: 05/30/2016

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