

Assessment of Master Thesis – Academic Consultant



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2016/2017**

Master Thesis Topic: **The UN and its role in international conflicts prevention and resolution: the case study of former Yugoslavia and Sierra Leone**

Author's name: **Bc. Veronika Schmidtová**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **doc. Ing. Mgr. Radka Druláková, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. Kristýna Stejskalová**

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

Comments and Questions:

The Master's Thesis written by Veronika Schmidtová deals with a current topic as it focuses on the peacekeeping processes pursued by the United Nations (UN) while she "... incline to the opinion that the UN is still the most effective institution which maintains international peace around the globe." (p. 13) The author aims at analyzing a list of tools used in the UN peacekeeping operations which serves as a sound theoretical framework as well. In accordance with the main research question (i.e. "... why some UN peacekeeping operations are successful whereas others completely fail", p. 14) the author presents two case studies, each representing an example of success or failure.

The text is logically sequenced into four chapters which help the author to keep the well-developed coherence of the thesis. In the first chapter the author builds theoretical framework, in the following two chapters she deals with the two UN peacekeeping operations (UNPROFOR, UNAMISIL) where she successfully employs the theoretical framework. However, some parts of these chapters are more descriptive than they should be especially the subchapters 2.1 and 3.1 would rather be summed up in a table/chart or appendices to the Master's Thesis. The comparative study in the final chapter convincingly proves that the aim of the thesis has been fulfilled. And even though the supervisor was consulted rarely, I appreciate that Veronika proved her ability to write scholarly text of satisfactory quality even without supervisor. The language of the text is professional, moreover easy to read and to follow the ideas.

To sum up, the Master's Thesis has coherent structure with logically interlinked chapters, it is elaborated carefully and Veronika Schmidtová has proved her ability to work with scholarly sources and analyze them accordingly. I recommend the thesis for defense and to evaluate it as "excellent". During the defense of the thesis, she could elaborate more – with respect to her conclusions – on recommendations for achieving success in the UN peacekeeping operations: what the UN should avoid and what is underestimated up to the present day?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 14/05/2017

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