

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



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	1
6.	Self-reliance of author	1
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	1
8.	Language and stylistics	1

Comments and Questions:

Veronika Schmidtová picked a topic that is currently very relevant – to challenge core aim of the United Nations as the global player responsible for maintaining peace in the world. Even though there are many current UN peacekeeping operations that actually raised the question of United Nations' relevance in peacekeeping, the author picked two older operations – UNPROFOR deployed to Former Yugoslavia in 1992 and UNAMSIL deployed in Sierra Leone in 1999. Author was able to argue the choice of these two missions, one considered as the best one and the other as the worst one in UN peacekeeping history. This choice made good basis for comparison of these missions and evaluating the basic aspects of the UN peacekeeping concept. With regards to the time that passed since these two missions were deployed, author was able to evaluate them more objectively than it would be possible with more recent missions. The Thesis is well-organized, divided into four chapters that are balanced content-wise and have logical continuity. The language is at high level so is the stylistics of the Thesis. Author proved to be able to work with both primary and secondary resources and precisely followed the rules of citation. First chapter is dedicated to theory and methodology and provides well chosen framework for research of the topic. Following chapters are dedicated to two above mentioned peacekeeping operations and their comparison. Author was able to answer the main research questions, while alerting that there might be other factors having impact on the peacekeeping results that are not always considered in the evaluation of the mission. Thesis is marked as "excellent". For the defence, author can more elaborate on the question: How much are UN peacekeeping activities harmonized with activities of other players, such as NATO or the EU? How does this effect the result and evaluation of the UN peacekeeping missions? Is there, according to the author, room for improvement in terms of harmonizing these activities, and if yes, how?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 15/05/2017

Ing. Kristýna Stejskalová
Opponent