

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2018/2019**

Master Thesis Topic: **China in Africa – Game Changer from the African Perspective?**

Author's name: **Mfon-Obong Monday David**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Jeremy Alan Garlick, M.A., Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. PhDr. Radka Havlová, Ph.D.**

	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	2
8.	Language and stylistics	1

Comments and Questions:

In his Master's thesis the student focuses on yet another aspect of Chinese foreign policy. China has been to subject of many studies and analyses in the recent years, and therefore it is rather difficult to come up with a thesis topic that would be innovative and bring some new information. From this perspective the opponent highly values the presented thesis as it presents the topic of Chinese foreign policy from a brand new perspective. Although the student decided to focus on a rather well documented topic of analysis of Chinese influence in Africa, the presented analysis focuses on the African perspective and African perception of Chinese involvement in Africa which I find refreshing.

The thesis has a logical structure and all its chapters are well linked to the central topic of the thesis. Although the second chapter on China and Chinese foreign policy does not bring substantial new information, the analysis of Chinese involvement in Africa is excellent. I in particular appreciate the case studies of Chinese relations to Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya and the comparative analysis provided in the Chapter 4. The only thing I am missing in the analysis is a clear justification why these three countries were selected for analysis – please explain at thesis defense.

The student refers well to resources, I also appreciate the wide range of annexes used by the student to document the Chinese involvement in Africa. The only recommendation I would have for clarity is to put the name of the figure (map, graph) before the graph/map/table and not underneath.

The presented thesis fulfills all requirements and can be recommended for defense with suggested grade "A" ("1", excellent).

Question for defense: Please explain how is Chinese involvement in Africa perceived by the African countries in particular compared to the perception of former colonial involvement of European countries in Africa.

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 12/07/2019

Ing. PhDr. Radka Havlová, Ph.D.
Opponent