

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

GPS – Geopolitical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	The success or failure of integration in sub-Saharan Africa
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	Daria Levchenko
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	Mgr. Martin Riegl, PhD.

**Remark:** It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

### **SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	14
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	10
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	15
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	15
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)</b>	<b>2,4</b>

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

### **Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).**

#### **1) Theoretical background:**

The author has decided to analyze the undergoing processes (very ambitious I must say) of sub-regional integration in Sub-Saharan Africa and explain whether it can be seen as a success story or rather a failure. Mrs. Levchenko has chosen to analyze an important, dynamic and topical problem (however not the original one).

The author based her research of following research question: 1) EU case is not a model for the African continent, 2) Participation of the same countries in different regional organizations could be harmful to the regionalism, 3) The impact of main world political powers (China, USA) can play a significant role (help build an efficient institutional base, and so forth) for the integration process, 4) In general, integration leads to positive improvements (growth of the economy, social indicators) in this area.

The thesis itself is sub-divided into five chapters (excluding the introduction). In the first part the notions of regionalism, regional integration, hegemony (which plays a crucial role within Western and Southern Africa) are being conceptualized. In the second part the author provides an analysis of particular sub-regions (Eastern, Western, Central and Southern Africa). The third part of the thesis researches trends of integration and disintegration across sub-Saharan Africa.

#### **2) Contribution:**

Despite of the fact Mrs. Levchenko managed to compile substantial amount of sources, the overall character of the thesis remains descriptive. Main contribution of the thesis is a overall summary of over-lapping membership within particular REC's and general information focused on particular sub-regional organizations (official languages, objectives and results and basic general facts about particular organizations). To sum it up the main contribution of the thesis is its informative character.

#### **3) Methods:**

The author utilizes a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods of research.

**4) Literature:**

D.Levchenko has managed to compile extensive amount of resources (theoretical literature focused in regionalism, monographs, case studies, documents and other electronic sources) – including works of D. Bach or L. Fawcett). Furthermore she showed her ability to critically analyze the whole bunch of sources.

**5) Manuscript form:**

The submitted thesis meets all standards required by Faculty of Social Sciences. However stylistic level of the thesis is rather poor (including grammar mistakes and misspellings).

**DATE OF EVALUATION: June 18th, 2014**

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**Referee Signature**