

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Serpent in the Water: Debating the Chinese Maritime Strategy</b>
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	<b>Michael Slominski</b>
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	<b>Mgr. Martin Riegl, Ph.D.</b>

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	20
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	20
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	15
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	19
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)</b>	<b>1 (Excellent)</b>

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

**1) Theoretical background:** Mr. Slominski explicitly and correctly formulated research problems which are objectively analyzed throughout the reviewed paper. The thesis itself is framed within the appropriate theoretical framework (classical geo-politicians and geostrategy). The structure of the thesis is logical and consistent. The paper is very clear about the theoretical background.

**2) Contribution:** The subject of thesis is very topical in its effort to identify Chinese maritime strategy, her intentions or interactions with other countries in the region. The research agenda is unquestionably bold and not trite. This is an area which attracts a prominent attention both in academic research and practical policymaking.

**3) Methods:** Methodology is clearly stated as well as the hypotheses. The thesis is composed of six chapters (including introduction). The first and second chapters concentrates on theoretical and methodological foundation of the thesis, while the third and fourth chapter is focused on the discussion of prospects and limits of (optimal) Chinese Maritime strategy.

**4) Literature:** The author quotes relevant and recent literature which shows that the author has a profound knowledge of the literature concerning the topic. An additional literature review could be contemplated in view that quite some key authors in the respective debates do not figure in the literature (Nye, Brzezinski, Friedman). On the other hand these shortcomings do not seem to invalidate key findings and conclusions of the thesis.

**5) Manuscript form:** The reviewed thesis fulfills all criteria of the diploma thesis required by Faculty of Social Sciences. The whole thesis exceeds a demanded scope of 50 pages. Also the structure of the thesis is well logically structured into six chapters including introduction and conclusion.

**DATE OF EVALUATION: 21.1. 2015**

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**Referee Signature**