

## Denisa Glacová – The Israeli Secular Society in the View of the Haredi Press

### Posudek školitele na diplomovou práci

The M.A. thesis of Bc. Denisa Glacová titled “The Israeli Secular Society in the View of the Haredi Press” analyzes the functioning of modern and contemporary Israeli Ultra-Orthodox press and the ways it presents the Israeli secular society to their Haredi public.

It is hard to exaggerate the importance of contemporary Haredi press in building social, political and communal identities of Ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel and in the diaspora. Reporting about the Israeli secular society and the outside (non-Haredi) world mirrors complex social, halachic and political issues within a changing Haredi society. As the author herself notes based on the available sociological data, the size of the Haredi segment of the Israeli society is growing and its political influence is rather significant.

Nevertheless, only very little academic research on the topic is currently conducted and published. The few published works dealing with the topic are mostly in Hebrew and Denisa Glacová uses their results as a springboard for her own research, which required extensive fieldwork inside a closed, conservative and suspicious society. Denisa Glacová successfully managed to conduct a set of interviews with key figures in the Haredi press and her thesis opens a window into issues still to be “discovered” not only by scholars of Jewish Studies but also by sociologists and political scientists. In this light, it is immensely important that Denisa Glacová wrote her thesis in English.

To resume: The thesis submitted by Denisa Glacová demonstrates clearly her excellent skills in Modern Israeli Hebrew both in its academic form (she used extensively Hebrew scholarly sources) and also in its spoken form (she carried the interviews with the Israeli Haredi informants, often in colloquial Hebrew).

I recommend the thesis to be accepted and I suggest the grade “výborně”.

Ing. Dani Ziss, 10 June, 2018