



Ústav světových dějin FFUK

Master's Thesis Review

Student's name and surname: *Davi Costa da Silva*

Title of the thesis: *The Brazilian Agrarian-industrial Towns of Jan Antonín Baťa (1941–1965): Transnational Crossings in Urban Planning*

Reviewer's name and surname:

_____ *doc. PhDr. Martin Jemelka, Ph.D.* _____

1. Heuristic (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

1.1 Evaluation of the selection of literature and sources	<i>1</i>
1.2 Complexity of used sources from the perspective of the state of the art	<i>1</i>

Short evaluation:

The author of this master's thesis has demonstrated his thorough knowledge of the available relevant literature and archival resources, solid linguistic ability in taking excerpts from them, and critical skills in working with them.

2. Research problem and its solution (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

2.1 Choice of the formulation of the research issue respects the task given to the student	<i>1</i>
2.2 The relevance of the goal from the perspective of research area methodology	<i>1</i>

Short evaluation:

*The choice of topic is absolutely innovative, as the topic selected has up to now been fully outside the mainstream of contemporary Baťa research as regards language and geography. Also new in Baťa research are the newly outlined researcher perspectives of the *histoire croisée*.*



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3. Thesis' structure evaluation (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

3.1 Is the structure of the thesis logical?	1
3.2 Does the thesis' structure work along the methodology and methods declared in the introduction	1

Short evaluation:

The selected structure of the master's thesis is logical, fully corresponding to the selected topic, and clearly presents its solution from the methodological perspectives of urban history and histoire croisee.

4. Quality of analysis and interpretation (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

4.1 Analysis of sources and literature	1
4.2 Interpretation of sources and literature in their interaction	1

Short evaluation:

Given the language demands and extensive scope of Baťa research, the author has proven his exceptional knowledge of the topic and the ability to consistently follow the selected topic.

5. Quality of the text (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

5.1 Style and grammar	2
5.2 Use of terminology	1

Short evaluation:

No objectives can be raised as regards terminology. The master's thesis is of a high linguistic standard. The only limiting factors are the graphic design of the highly valuable diagrams and minor flaws occurring in the form of typing errors and inaccuracies (p. 41 Dubrenil –



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should be Dubreil? p. 80 Denmark – should be Norway? p. 37 – incorrect date and diagram, etc.).

6. Synthetic evaluation (minimum 500 signs):

Through his choice of the topic, methodological perspectives, linguistic ability and the quality of preparation, the author of this master's thesis, a "beginner" in Baťa research (p. 128), has shown wonderful skills for a student at the end of his master's studies. He has put the topic of Baťa towns into the as yet neglected geographical context, filled it with a rich array of persons, rehabilitated and accentuated the role of J. A. Baťa and freed it from the dominating interpretational framework of so-called company towns. The phenomenon of Baťa agrarian-industrial settlements is generally unknown in European historiography (the author only quotes two studies) and the same is true of many of the sources he has used (the Baťa family archives in Brazil). The fundamentals of his thesis lie in the 2nd part, dedicated to Baťa's Brazilian settlements; however, the analysis of examples of Baťa company towns in the 1st part (p. 43 ff.) is also highly valuable. The thesis revives long-forgotten architects and urban planners (F. Macek, M. Kunic), but especially rehabilitates the role of J. A. Baťa in designing ideal industrial towns and their variants, i.e. agrarian-industrial settlements. I personally would wish to see this thesis made available to European readers in the form of an expert study.

7. Questions and comments which should the candidate answer and discuss during the defence:

- 1) The sub-chapter on the dichotomy between the town and the countryside (p. 78) appears somewhat superficial: did the author perhaps overestimate the industrial character of Czechoslovakia between the wars, where in many respects the appearance of the agrarian-industrial, or rather an agrarian, state was still preserved?*
 - 2) Did the author find, in his research, the inspirations of Tomáš Baťa from the Christian communism of L. N. Tolstoj and his project of agricultural and production community from before 1900?*
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Suggested grade: *1*

Date: 8. 6. 2018

Signature: *doc. PhDr. M. Jemelka, Ph.D.*