

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Klára Bohunická**

Název práce: **Trumpův předvolební plán boje proti terorismu v USA a jeho následná realizace v první polovině volebního období**

Oponoval (u externích oponentů uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce):
doc. PhDr. Francis D. Raška, PhD.

1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle):

The aim of this B.A. thesis is to examine three campaign promises made by Donald Trump in his election campaign regarding counter-terrorism in the United States and whether he kept them. The student wishes to prove the hypothesis that candidates make too many promises during campaigns that they later fail to keep. The hypothesis should be proved or disproved on the basis of eight specific factors.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.):

I feel that this theme is challenging and that the student tackles the questions she poses well. I think that the structure of the treatise is sound. The literature consulted is also sufficient.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.):

I have found no serious presentation problems. There is a good bibliography and works are properly cited.

4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

Klára Bohunická has selected Donald Trump's pre-election counter-terrorism campaign promises and whether he has kept them as the topic of her B.A. dissertation. Dr. Jan Hornát is a good supervisor for such a work and the result serves as evidence of excellent supervision. The structure of the treatise is straightforward. The student has divided her work into an Introduction, four main chapters, and a Conclusion. I will offer comments on each section in the paragraphs that follow.

In the Introduction, Klára clearly spells out the aim of the thesis, which is to analyze the content of Donald Trump's campaign promises regarding counter-terrorism policy in the United States and whether President Trump has kept those promises as of 20 January 2019. The goals of the three main chapters are properly explained, as are the sources consulted in each individual chapter. As the topic is a current one, the available secondary literature is limited and the student must work with released primary documents. I am satisfied with the Introduction, which provides the reader with a clear idea of what to expect in the body of the work.

Chapter 1 is devoted to the issue of campaign promises in general. Klára states eight factors conceived by American diplomat Kurt M. Campbell and Professor James B. Steinberg in their book entitled *Difficult Transitions*. The factors explain why presidents generally do not live up to their campaign promises. Klára then explains that her aim is to scrutinize Trump's three counter-terrorism campaign promises and use selected relevant factors of Campbell and Steinberg to explain why the president thus far has failed to live up to them. The first factor involves campaigns emphasizing the differences between themselves and their opponents, which often also involves criticizing policies of previous administrations and offering easy alternatives. The second factor is incomplete and inaccurate information provided by candidates either because of lack of access to such information or its distortion. Interest groups and promises made to them by candidates during campaigns represent the third factor. The stronger than you syndrome is the fourth factor, which manifests itself by using unfulfilled promises of the opposing candidate or past administration to one's advantage or, on the other hand, using political inexperience as a weapon in one's favor. The fifth factor is a foreign policy strategy involving promises designed to portray the United States as a "shining city upon a hill", which prove to be unrealizable and damage the administration's credibility. The sixth factor is emphasis on how the present system is broken in order to attract voters. Hypothetical questions posed by the media that are answered in haste without candidates having time to

prepare their responses are the seventh factor. The eighth factor involves think tanks and the plentiful information they provide, which results in unrealizable promises that new administrations need to rid themselves of. This chapter demonstrates the pitfalls of American presidential campaigns, in which so many promises are made in an effort to secure votes. The student has brought home the point to the reader.

In Chapter 2, Klára furnishes a brief historical background of the United States and terrorism. Various definitions of terrorism are provided, as are the terrorist acts, such as 9/11, that resulted in the Patriot Act and the war on terror. Of course the costs associated with prosecuting the war on terror have already run into the trillions of dollars. The figures cited in the waning days of the Obama Administration are staggering. This chapter is necessary for the reader to get an idea as to how the Trump campaign later utilized the issue of counter-terrorism to its advantage.

Chapter 3 is where Klára analyzes the Trump 2016 presidential campaign and his three counter-terrorism promises. Trump's first promise was to close down those parts of the Internet where ISIS was active. His second promise was to establish a commission to counter radical Islam. Stopping immigration from places where terrorism is rampant was Trump's third promise. Here Klára examines Trump's three attempts to ban Muslims from entering the United States. My impression of this chapter is likewise positive because I feel that the student invested a lot of effort.

In Chapter 4, Klára discusses her findings and which of the eight factors offered by Campbell and Steinberg most apply to Trump's failure to keep his campaign promises. She claims that five of the eight factors are relevant to Trump's failure to keep his counter-terrorism campaign promises. The chapter is well written.

The Conclusion recapitulates Klára's main points and confirms her hypothesis.

My overall impression of the dissertation is positive. However, I did discover some careless errors, such as often not writing Trump with a capital T. However, this is a quibble. I recommend an EXCELLENT classification (B).

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):
Is there any way you can think of to limit irresponsible promises made by politicians in campaigns?

6. **DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA**
(výborně, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): **B**

Datum: **2.6.2019**

Podpis:

Pozn.: Hodnocení píše k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.