

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Wang Jinliang</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Doc. PhDr. Ing. Petr Jakubík, PhD.Petr</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Economic impact of protectionist measures</b>

## **OVERALL ASSESSMENT** (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

### **Contribution**

The author of the diploma thesis is a Chinese student who opted for the topic of the effects of protectionist measures. Given the ongoing and escalating trade war between the US and China, this is a highly relevant and attractive subject which resonates quite strongly in the thesis. However, the final impression is not as strong as the original expectations might suggest. The reader may lack a somewhat more detailed description of the development of the American-Chinese trade conflict or its explanation in a broader trade policy context. The effort to draw general lessons from the two older episodes of protectionist behaviour for possible development of the US-China trade war is innovative.

### **Methods**

The diploma thesis has a logical structure. It is divided into theoretical and analytical part. The theoretical part, which is devoted to protectionist policies, is too focused on the use of trade tariffs, although the list of protectionist measures is much broader. The motives for introducing protectionist instruments are also richer than just protecting domestic producers. For example, in the current US-China trade conflict, the US administration is resorting to tariffs as a coercive tool in negotiating new trade relations.

### **Literature**

The literature review is extensive, but unilaterally focused on Western authors. A high added value would be to use the student's nationality to familiarize the European reader with a critical evaluation of Chinese theoretical and policymaking literature on the given topic.

### **Manuscript form**

The diploma thesis suffers from two serious formal shortcomings. First, the authors included in the literature review are not listed in alphabetical order. Second, the student does not manage writing analytical passages. Equations and other mathematical expressions are incorporated into paragraphs as if they were standard narrative text. English sometimes suffers from less pregnant wording, but it is not fatal for the sake of clarity.

### **Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense**

Despite the above critical remarks, the submitted study complies with the requirements for a diploma thesis and can be accepted for defence. The student could comment on the following two questions:

1. Do US protectionist actions targeted on China have some justification in some earlier Chinese trade practices, such as the accusation of artificial weakening of the Chinese currency or insufficient protection of intellectual property?
2. Are some variables of the gravity model too remote from the studied topic? Namely, what significance a common border or language similarity can play in the current US-China trade war?

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

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<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	16
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>71</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>C</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Prof. Ing. Oldřich Dědek, CSc.

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 27. 5. 2020



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**Referee Signature**

**EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:**

**CONTRIBUTION:** *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

**METHODS:** *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

**LITERATURE REVIEW:** *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

**MANUSCRIPT FORM:** *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

**Overall grading:**

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F