

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

Title of the thesis:	Intermarium concept in contemporary geopolitics
Author of the thesis:	Greg Aldridge
Referee (incl. titles):	Martin Riegl

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	20
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	20
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	20
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	20
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	100
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	Excellent

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background:

The submitted paper is framed within clearly defined theoretical approaches (neoliberal paradigm stressing "positive impact" the level of transnationalism vs. realist paradigm), which gives the author a strong theoretical base for his analysis of the impact of borders on the level of euroscepticism and anti-migration attitude among Czech citizens living in border areas.

2) Contribution:

What I strongly appreciate is a strong understanding of historical context in which boundaries of the Czech Republic has been formed. Throughout the paper Greg shows a very deep understanding of the chosen topic, excellent methodological skills, a good orientation in a broader historical as well as the present-day context and his ability to apply the role of historical development (level of regionalism, connectivity across CZ-SK, CZ-AT, CZ-DE, CZ-PL borders, socio-economic differences, voting patterns etc.) on the current situation. Greg has demonstrated his ability to comprehensively analyze methodologically complicated, complex, but also intriguing topic. The outcome of the paper present original, unique, and also unanticipated worth publishing in academic journal.

3) Methods:

Methods applied throughout the thesis are clearly presented and explained. Four tested hypotheses are well chosen and tested by using strong quantitative approach. The author based his research on two dataset of information representing the Czech administrative division. Also definition of dependent, independent as well as control variables gives the reader a clear picture of methodological foundation of the paper.

4) Literature:

This is a strong side of the paper, the author has gathered a massive amount of statistical data but also relevant theoretical and comparative literature which enabled him conduct a unique in-depth analysis of the chosen topic. It is crystal clear that he has done his research dutifully and deserves a credit for that.

5) Manuscript form:

The paper meets all formal criteria and fully satisfies requirements of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The author has consulted his thesis on the regular basis with his advisor. Greg is a native speaker so obviously has no difficulties at a linguistic level or vocabulary choice. This is the first time I give a full score.

DATE OF EVALUATION: June 18, 2020

Referee Signature