Name of the student:	Mackenzie Baldinger
Title of the thesis:	Neo-feudalism and Neo-traditionalism: the Intersection of Cultural Discourse and Economic Policies in Fidesz's Hungary
Reviewer:	Martin Mejstřík (Charles University)

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD
(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

> MA Thesis of Mackenzie Baldinger focuses on the intersection between cultural discourse and economic policies in Hungary during Viktor Orbán´s government. The thesis clearly defines research question and identifies research objectives by putting together neo-feudalist and neo-traditionalist approaches.
> Literature review is quite extensive – the author shows a good knowledge of theories of populism and presents a compact research design which includes neo-feudalist and neo-traditionalist concepts. These concepts are afterwards skilfully applied on the case study of Orbán´s Hungary.

2. ANALYSIS
(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

> The thesis works with well-developed research framework and presents non-descriptive analytical arguments. The author succeeds in connecting the theoretical framework, populist approaches and the actual policies of Orbán´s government. The strong point of the thesis is the empirical analysis of various policies with regard to neo-feudal economic and neo-traditionalist cultural concepts. Combining these to concepts together is an original approach which the author manages back by empirical evidence.
> The author work with sources without major difficulties, using secondary sources in Hungarian language could help to back the main argument but even without them, the author presents her arguments convincingly.

3. CONCLUSIONS
(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

> The author shows a convincing conclusion proving how the neo-traditionalism and neo-feudalism contributed to creating political support (both economic and cultural) of Orbán´s government.
> The author achieves her research objectives and shows a good work linking empirical evidence with theoretical approaches and overall research framework.
> The final part of the thesis is, however, a little bit inconsistent with the rest of the text. It´s not fully clear how it´s connected with the main research argument. It also resembles more part of a policy paper evaluating Orbán´s economic policies outside of the presented research framework.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE
(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

> Formal aspects of the thesis are without any major issues. The author is a native speaker; thus, the language and writing are on an excellent level. The same applies to maintaining high academic standards, citation style and work with sources.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT
(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

MA Thesis of Mackenzie Baldinger is well-written. The author convincingly examines the connection between economic and cultural policies and the neo-feudalist and neo-traditionalist discourse during the time of Orbán´s government in Hungary.
The final part of the thesis could be more connected to the main focus of the text but it doesn´t constitute a major issue with a decisive impact on the overall quality of the thesis.

Grade (A-F):	A-
Date:	Signature:
25 January 2021	Martin Mejstřík

classification scheme

Percentile	Prague		Krakow		Leiden		Barcelona	
A (91–100)	91–100 %	8,5%	5	6,7%	8,5–10	5,3%	9–10	5,5 %
B (81–90)	81–90 %	16,3%	4,5	11,7%	7.5–8.4	16.4%	8–8.9	11,0 %
C (71–80)	71–80 %	16,3%	4	20%	6.5–7.4	36,2%	7–7.9	18,4 %
D (61–70)	61–70 %	24%	3,5	28,3%			6–6,9	35,2 %
E (51–60)	51–60 %	34,9%	3	33,4 %	6–6,4	42,1 %	5–5,9	30,1 %

Assessment criteria:

Excellent (A): "Outstanding performance with only minor errors';
Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';
Good (C): "Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';
Satisfactory (D): "Fair but with significant shortcomings';
Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';
Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.