

Review of the Master Degree Thesis of Saltanat Auyesbayeva: Oil and gas pipelines policy of  
the Republic of Kazakhstan  
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Submitted thesis deals, as its title indicates, with the problem of oil and gas pipelines of Kazakhstan. The author divided her work into seven chapters and consists of 87 pages.

The author tries to place Kazakhstan among world producers of oil and gas and emphasis several mutually working problems affecting its policies: (1) Kazakhstan is a „new“ country which had to build up its foreign relations from the „ground zero“ and it still has to had in mind interests of her close neighbours namely Russia nad China, as well as of the USA; (2) Kazakhstan is a land-locked country, which fact is worthening its position on the world market tremendously; (3) Kazakhstan is a large and not very populous country.

As for the positives: The author ties to describe carefully all main existing oil and gas transport infrastructure and sketch out main problems connected with their functioning as well as their future development at least within mid term horizon. She tries to take into account interests of Russia, China and the USA.

As for the negative: Unfortunately the author didn't include or at least mention any theorethical part within her theses, even though there is a lot question which had to be frameworked and placed minimaly within geopolitical and geoeconomic theories, not speaking about broader context of theories of internatioanl relations. It is a fact, that author declares, that her thesis is focused on oil and gas pipelines policy but those policies are not worked out in the vacuum. It is a shame, that author, for example, didn't try to evaluate problem of Turkic speaking population in PRC's region of East Turkestan, she didn't either mention an attempt of Turkey to became a leader of Turkic speaking nations of Central Asia at the beginnig of 1990's, etc.

Conclusion: The author was able to round-up many important informations about existing and planned oil and gas pipelines of Kazakhstan quite successfully, but she failed to evaluate gathered data within proper theorethical context. That is why her thesis is one-dimensional description and not full spectrum deep analysiss of an important and interesting issue. Nevertheless I do recommend this thesis to be properly defend in front of examination board. In my opinion it should be appraised by level „good“.

Prague, January 31, 2008

Michael Romancov, Ph.D.

