



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Min Sun Kim

Title: **The Impact of National Identity on the Czech Position towards European Integration**

Programme/year: MAIN/2021

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): **Martin Jeřábek**

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	24
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	31
<i>Total</i>		80	62
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	7
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	16
TOTAL		100	78

Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis of the candidate is ambitious in term of the aim. The central research question focuses on the assumption that “skeptical” national Czech identity has been constructed in the history of modern time since the 16th century. However, the thesis assumes that there is a casual relationship of the historically developed Czech national identity to a current situation in the Czech Republic, that the “skeptical identity” led also to Czech skepticism toward the EU.



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The candidate would like to detect this causal relationship (p. 14): “first, sad historical moments in Czech Republic have developed skepticism as a sort of national identity, second, national skepticism has pronounced as euro-skepticism in Czech politics.” (The author mentions the examples of history dependent narratives – India, South Korea, see p. 15.)

This interesting approach of Min Sun Kim could well contribute to the debate on the reasons and roots of Czech Euroscepticism. Detailed hypotheses are developed on page 3/4. This aim needs 1. to do well a historical research (chapter 4); 2. to set a theoretical instrument to find out the appropriate link (cause and effect) between Czech identity in the history and the Czech current Euroscepticism (chapter 1.1); and 3. to study the formulation of the Czech Eurosceptic positions and apply this theoretical concept to identify that “link” (chapter and 5).

I would like to appreciate the core analysis of the cases of Czech Euroscepticism (Chapter 5: Lisbon Treaty, Atlanticism, Euro adoption). The author uses also primary sources (press, polls and surveys) in that section that goes beyond the standard expectations regarding the quality of diploma thesis. However, in the chapters (mainly 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4.) to the “historical identity” there are important scientific sources and books missing, mainly to Czech-German relations – D. Brandes (on WW II), V. Kural, J. Křen, F. Seibt; or to the Czech national stereotypes J. Rak, M. Havelka, as well as for example O. Pick, V. Handl (available also in English) to an important period with a “new identity” in the Czech-German relationship since 1990. (That is not concerned as a “history” and therefore is **not** part of the thesis analysis, but it could be on my opinion that important “link” to understand the relationships of historical narratives and current politics). These sources/or the abovementioned approach would help the candidate better identify the main features that could have led to a long-term skeptical identity construction. I see the biggest shortcoming of the thesis in not clearly identifying the link between history and current period since 1990, exogenously caused accidents in history do not automatically led to a skeptical stance toward Europe. The presented empirical evidence on the “Czech identity” should also focus more on the fact who exactly adopted that skepticism – elites, politicians, the people etc.

Minor criteria:

The theoretical part and the analytical part of the text is very well-written and comprehensive. Also, the grammar and logical structuring of the thesis is satisfactory. The style is understandable.

The thesis is equipped with necessary list of appendices that are placed at the end of the thesis, mainly tables and figures to the polls on positions of the Czech people to the important issues discussed in chapter 5.



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The use of quotations appears to meet all formal requirements. I appreciate that the candidate uses also primary sources (see list p. 60).

It is not necessary to list all detailed page numbers in the bibliography, see example pp. 66, 67 etc.

Overall evaluation:

The quality of the thesis is above the average. The text demonstrates author's partly well understanding of the topic of Czech history on the one hand, and full competence on the Czech Euroscepticism on the other hand. The original research of the thesis is mainly in chapters 4 and 5. The theoretical framework based on constructivism is well appropriate to discuss the topic of "Czech identity".

The deficiency of the thesis (that led to the suggested grade below) is that the author should have explained the key argument (How produce the sceptical Czech historical national identity the modern Czech Euroscepticism?) with a greater depth. Both chapters 4 and 5 are relevant to the main research question, also the constructivism is relevant concept, the conclusion argues towards the Czech Euroscepticism (p. 58). However, I think that the thesis has at that particular key issue a "methodology gap" that cause that the author could not convincingly explain the adoption of historical sceptical identity on the modern Czech Euroscepticism.

Suggested grade: C

(I suggest grade C with the possibility to change the grade to B if the author defends the thesis convincingly.)

Signature:

August 30, 2021