

# MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

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

<b>Thesis title:</b>	No Safe Harbour: Is Economic Reliance on the People's Republic of China Sinking Regional Foreign Policy Independence in the East-Asia Pacific?
<b>Name of Student:</b>	Raymond Gough
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	Michael Romancov, Ph.D.
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	September 4, 2021

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

**1) Contribution and argument:**

*What is the contribution of the work? Is the argumentation and research quality strong? Interpretation of own results, justified analyses, conclusions. Originality and independent scientific thinking.*

The author chose a current and relevant topic, which he was able to work on in an original way. Given the current situation, the issue of the dependence of selected countries on China is extremely urgent, and the presented work shows how this phenomenon can be analyzed.

**2) Theoretical and methodological framework:**

*Is the theoretical background relevant? Is there a sufficient theoretical framework applied? Are the applied methods relevant for answering the selected research questions and/or testing hypotheses? Are they used correctly?*

The author clearly and carefully explains how he approached the elaboration of the chosen topic. I consider his approach to be justified and logical. The creation of two separate metrics - the "Economic Entanglement Index (EEI)" with six individual indicators and the "Political Dependency Index (PDI)" with five individual indicators enabled the author to quantify the levels of political and economic dependency of selected countries with China. Overall "Sino-Dependency score" is therefore firmly based on collected and analyzed data.

**2) Sources and literature:**

*Is literature research relevant? Is the thesis situated in a broader context (field of research)? Quotation of sources.*

The work is based on the relevant resource base. The author was able to gather a sufficient number of sources with which he works in a proper and careful manner in the text of the entire master's thesis.

**4) Manuscript form and structure:**

*Are there any formal issues (logical coherence, layout, structure, tables, figures)?*

In this respect, the work does not show any problems or shortcomings.

**5) Quality of presentation**

*What is the quality of presentation (language, style, cohesion)*

The entire text of the master's thesis is written in a very cultivated language.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	35
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	20
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	8
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	15
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>88</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)</b>	<b>B</b>

**Suggested questions for the defence are:**

**I (do not) recommend the thesis for final defence.**

---

**Referee Signature**

*Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:*

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	<b>A</b>	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	<b>B</b>	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	<b>C</b>	= good
61 – 70	<b>D</b>	= satisfactory
51 – 60	<b>E</b>	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	<b>F</b>	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.