

2009

M.A. Dissertation Evaluation

Jan Ludvík

**Národní bezpečnostní strategie Spojených států amerických 2002-Imperiální Grand Strategy?**

Jan Ludvík (Honza) has conducted thorough research on the American National Security Strategy of 2002. He poses the question “Does it represent an imperial grand strategy”? That is precisely what this M.A. dissertation deals with. Honza’s treatise contains an introduction, seven main chapters, and a conclusion. In the introduction, Honza discusses the significance of President George W. Bush’s National Security Strategy of 2002. After all, this was the first post-9/11 security strategy of the United States and it has been quite controversial. The review of the literature is succinct, but more than sufficient. In addition, the rationale behind strategic documents is discussed as is the bureaucratic background. The last section of the introduction tells the reader exactly where the work is headed. Chapter 1 depicts the theory and practice behind national security strategy documents. The legal basis is well explained as is the role played by such documents in general. Chapter 2 deals with the National Security Council and its decision-making process. The second section of this chapter discusses the specifics of George W. Bush’s National Security Council, in particular the role played by Condoleezza Rice. Chapter 3 analyzes the preemption and prevention doctrines. In particular, attention is devoted to preemption in the 2002 National Security Strategy. Honza correctly states that the Bush Administration’s aim was not to create conditions for American imperial interventions, but rather to adapt the concept of preemptive self-defense to the altered security environment. In Chapter 4, Honza analyzes the idea of unilateralism and its relation to other countries. He begins by contrasting unilateralism and multilateralism. The rest of the chapter is devoted to American foreign policy traditions, the “Coalition of the Willing” and the 2003 Iraq invasion, NATO, and, finally, superpower rivalry. Chapter 5

addresses the concept of supporting democracy. Honza carefully provides an historical background before describing neoconservatives, Bush's administration, and democracy. He then poses the question whether supporting democracy is the central point of the National Security Strategy of 2002. Honza rightly states that the term democracy comes up less in the National Security Strategy of 2002 than in previous national security strategies, but that democracy continues to play an important role. Chapter 6 gets into the Bush myth promulgated by the President's critics. Honza points out why the myth is uncalled for and invalid. In Chapter 7, Honza discusses Noam Chomsky's notion of "imperial grand strategy" and whether the accusation can stand. He demonstrates the weakness and inaccuracy of the "imperial grand strategy" notion. Honza concludes the dissertation by asserting that the National Security Strategy of 2002 is not an "imperial grand strategy."

Jan Ludvík has gone above and beyond the call of duty in this dissertation. The quality is outstanding and Honza deserves an **excellent** mark. Perhaps a **dean's commendation** is in order.

A redacted area consisting of two overlapping pink rectangular boxes. The top box contains a handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "J. Ludvík". The bottom box is blank.