# REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

| Title of the thesis: | Russian Patronage to Unrecognized States Since the Annexation of Crimea: A Cross Case Study of the Republic of Abkhazia and the PMR |
|---|---|
| **Author of the thesis:** | **Heidi Tilse Koelle** |
| **Referee *(incl. titles)*:** | **Mgr. Bohumil Doboš** |

*Remark:* It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

## *SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED* (for details, see below):

| CATEGORY | POINTS |
|---|---|
| *Theoretical background (max. 20)* | 20 |
| *Contribution        (max. 20)* | 10 |
| *Methods             (max. 20)* | 20 |
| *Literature            (max. 20)* | 20 |
| *Manuscript form       (max. 20)* | 0 |
| **TOTAL POINTS**     *(max. 100)* | **70** |
| **The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)** | **D** |

**Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).**

**1) Theoretical background**:
Theoretical background is well developed and adequate.

**2) Contribution**:
The contribution of the work is diminished by the work being too broad. Also, there is a large issue regarding concluding chapter which is too vague and does not respond to the research questions set in the introduction as it deals only with the set hypotheses.

**3) Methods**:
Methodology of the work is well developed. Inclusion of interviews is highly positive.

**4) Literature**:
Selection of literature is adequate.

**5) Manuscript form**:
From the formal point of view, the thesis consists of major shortcomings and does not meet basic formal criteria of the Master´s Thesis. It uses different fonts, uneven headings, citation form is not uniform, and punctuation is often missing or misplaced. The thesis needs a serious formatting in order to meet the basic criteria as established inside the academia.

*DATE OF EVALUATION:*

_____
*Referee Signature*

***The referee should give comments to the following requirements:***

***1) THEORETICAL BACKGROUND:*** *Can you recognize that the thesis was guided by some **theoretical fundamentals** relevant for this thesis topic? Were some important theoretical concepts omitted? Was the theory used in the thesis consistently incorporated with the topic and hypotheses tested?*
Strong          Average          Weak
20               10               0          points

***2) CONTRIBUTION:*** *Evaluate if the author presents **original ideas** on the topic and aims at demonstrating **critical thinking** and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and relevant empirical material. Is there a distinct **value added** of the thesis (relative to knowledge of a university-educated person interested in given topic)? Did the author explain **why** the observed phenomena occurred? Were the policy implications well founded?*
Strong          Average          Weak
20               10               0          points

***3) METHODS:*** *Are the **hypotheses** for this study clearly stated, allowing their further verification and testing? Are the theoretical explanations, empirical material and **analytical tools** used in the thesis relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the aspiration level of the study? Is the thesis **topic comprehensively analyzed** and does the thesis not make trivial or irrelevant detours off the main body stated in the thesis proposal? More than 10 points signal an exceptional work, **which requires your explanation "why" it is so**).*
Strong          Average          Weak
20               10               0          points

***4) LITERATURE REVIEW:*** *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and **command of recent literature**. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way and disposes with a representative bibliography. (Remark: references to Wikipedia, websites and newspaper articles are a sign of **poor research**). If they dominate you cannot give more than 8 points. References to books published by prestigious publishers and articles in renowned journals give much better impression.*
Strong          Average          Weak
20               10               0          points

***5) MANUSCRIPT FORM:*** *The thesis is **clear and well structured**. The author uses appropriate language and style, including academic **format** for quotations, graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables, is easily readable and **stimulates thinking**.*
Strong          Average          Weak
20               10               0          points

## Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

| TOTAL POINTS | GRADE | Czech grading |
|---|---|---|
| 91 – 100 | A | = excellent |
| 81 - 90 | B | = good |
| 71 – 80 | C | = satisfactory |
| 61 - 70 | D | = satisfactory |
| 51 - 60 | E | |
| 0 | F | = fail (not recommended for defence) |