

MASTER'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies

Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Comparison of the trade of China with the EU and the US
Student's name:	LIN SHI
Referee's name:	Doc. Ing. Vladimír Benáček, CSc.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	50	22
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	9
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	8
Total		80	39
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	7
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	2
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	4
Total		20	13
TOTAL		100	52

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score:

[NB:] If the plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score is above 15%, the reviewer has to include his/her assessment of the originality of the reviewed thesis in his/her review. I have checked the list of flagged text and found that there were a mere few sentences flagged. All were related to definitions or properties of models, which cannot be therefore considered plagiarism. The rest were minor cases, usually standard connections in the part of sentences.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria (min. 1800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):

First of all, I must start with two remarks about the circumstances of this thesis. 1) Miss Lin Shi really started the analysis of the trade of China with the EU and the US with vehemence. Unfortunately, the Covid and online teaching had an exceptionally negative impact on the student's psychological health in 2022. She had to move to China and take daily treatments for a very long time. We had an intensive correspondence revealing that her illness precluded her from working on her thesis in the original extent and speed. This explains her sudden fall to underperformance. 2) The present content of the thesis should have the title with a minor change by inserting the word "policies": i.e. "Comparison of the

trade POLICIES of China with the EU and the US". If Miss Lin asked for a change in the title in January 2023, I could give her a better grade today: most probably D (provided the uploaded form of the thesis is complete).

Chapter 1 with Introduction is a good entry into the thesis. It discusses the OBOR Chinese strategy in trade and development, and then separately the EU and the US strategies. In the latter, unfortunately, there is no mention of the more up-to-date policies of J. Biden. Chapter 2 with trade theories and literature is not underperforming. It claims that trade policies should not be in conflict with comparative advantages and factor endowment hypotheses. Section 2.3 Reviews the trade relations between China and US and the EU. Unfortunately, it does not document it with data.

Chapter 3 focuses on the quantitative side of the trade. But why did the analysis end with data for 2020? In 2023 there were data for two more years. Sections 3.2 and 3.3 offer a rich input to more sophisticated analysis: e.g. by various types of regressions, which were not used. Next, in ch. 4, there are 6 pages dedicated to the description of policies.

Chapter 5 is the best part of the thesis: it concerns China's strategic thinking considered as the trade-economic game for Chinese dominance. The idea of the Thucydides trap could have been expanded much more in the given triangular (CN-EU-US) game.

The final 4 pages on policy recommendations conclude the policy part but the quantitative analysis of the EU and EU trade is left void. That does not allow me to give the thesis a better grade than E.

Unfortunately, there is a serious problem with the formal side of the uploaded thesis. There are missing the top pages, as well as the bottom pages. In the latter, the references were completely cut off. I could work with the text sent to me at the end of December where there were References covering three pages. I could appreciate that the thesis used a lot of articles in academic journals written by Chinese scholars. Such references were OK. **I must leave it to the State Exam Commission to assess if the mentioned formal deficiency can be fixed by new uploading and the thesis could be approved if Miss Lin Shi defends its passable grade.**

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): E

Suggested questions for the defence are:

Explain the Thucydides trap as it applies to the triangular trade development in the cases if Trump or Biden wins the next US election.

I recommend the thesis for the final defence.

27.1.2024



Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

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