



Prague, 11 June 2009

**Advisor's report on the master thesis "The Effects of Cold War Speech in the Post-Cold War World: Identification of the Enemy in the War on Terror" by George W. S. Hays II**

George Hays presents an original and methodologically informed research on a topical area of international politics. He examines discursive connections between the Cold War and the War on Terror from the perspective of American leaders. He uses the analysis of metaphors to figure out how the enemies of the USA are imagined by the US presidents comparing Truman, Eisenhower, Reagan and Bush speeches. Even though his research does not identify strong discursive connections between the Cold War rhetorics and the one of the War on Terror, he points to some important links.

Hays structures his argumentation with a commandable clarity and his methodological commitment is exceptional for a master thesis in the field of IR. One would perhaps appreciate a deeper theoretical reflection of the two phenomena which are compared (Cold War, War on Terror) or a theoretical reflection which would make it possible to generalize the empirical findings beyond the two cases in question. One also wonders why the distinction between strong and weak metaphors is important for the author and how it contributes to his empirical argument. Finally, some conceptual metaphors should have less abstract and more tangible source domains (unified entity, determinator of politics, imposed system).

Having said that I consider the present master thesis one of the best to be defended within the IPS IR program in recent years. I am happy to recommend its defence and I recommend to the author to enroll in a PhD program.

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