

Lukáš Kindl  
B.A. Thesis Evaluation  
2010

*Americká bezpečnostní politika vůči zhrouteným státům se zaměřením na případ Somálska*

Lukáš Kindl has taken up the issue of failed states in his B.A. dissertation. He has emphasized the case of Somalia when making his points. Lukáš is an excellent student. I had the pleasure of teaching him over the years and he has brought me great joy. The work contains an introduction (Chapter 1), five main chapters (Chapters 2-6), and a conclusion (Chapter 7). In addition, Lukáš has appended some tables and maps at the end. It goes without saying that the referencing in the work is excellent and all abbreviations are adequately explained.

In the introduction (Chapter 1), Lukáš discusses why failed states have gained the attention of American foreign policymakers. He mentions both human rights and national security, the latter being more important. Lukáš rightly makes the observation that Somalia is a good example of a failed state threatening American national security. His overview of the literature is very thorough and deserves to be commended.

Chapter 2 deals with the general issue of failed states. The definitions are good, the causes are described well, and the threat of failed states to American national security is explained from a number of perspectives.

Chapter 3 analyzes the development of American national security policy since the emergence of failed states. Lukáš correctly reminds the reader that it was President George H.W. Bush, who initially sent American troops to Somalia after his election defeat in 1992. Then, some of the missions ordered by President Bill Clinton on the basis of the doctrine of engagement and enlargement are scrutinized. This is followed by a depiction

of President George W. Bush's policies, which came into being after the tragedy of 9/11. Finally, a brief mention is made of President Obama's strategy.

Chapter 4 acquaints the reader with the reality of Somalia as a failed state. Lukáš's historical overview is excellent. The Somalis never really possessed a concept of statehood before being colonized by the French and, like many other African states, they failed to build a successful order after decolonization. Lukáš then analyzes Somalia's post-Cold War collapse and its international implications. Indeed, Somalia went from being just another human rights sob story to posing a threat to international security by becoming a hotbed of Islamist terrorism. Though some scholars wondered aloud how useful Somalia could be as a terrorist haven, events have shown that Islamist thugs are capable of operating there and in other places as well.

Chapter 5 discusses the evolution of American involvement in Somalia from the initial human rights phase to the anti-terrorist fight. Lukáš presents detailed facts coupled with sound analysis and his observation that American anti-terrorist measures in certain ways undermine any possibility of building a viable, stable Somali state is correct. I must add, however, that American foreign policy must defend America first even if American actions are unpopular in some wasteland in the Horn of Africa.

Chapter 6 compares and contrasts the views of different American think-tanks on American policy towards Somalia. I do not take issue with any of Lukáš's observations. On the contrary, I think that the text speaks for itself.

In his conclusion (Chapter 7), Lukáš recapitulates his main arguments and does so convincingly. His recommendation that the United States ought to adopt a strategy of turning to traditional tribal leaders (and provide development aid) to establish stability and pursue covert operations to wipe out the core Islamist threat is a good one. After all,

attempts to establish any credible central authority have failed thus far and we have no reason to believe that pursuing the unsuccessful policies of the past will pan out anytime soon.

Lukáš Kindl has written a phenomenal piece of work. The work is deeply analytical and offers policy solutions. I recommend an **excellent** mark and, if he does well in the state exams, Lukáš should receive a **dean's commendation**.

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