

Eva Bergmanová-Gnip
B.A. Thesis Evaluation
2010
Americká intervence na Haiti

Eva Bergmanová-Gnip has written her B.A. thesis on the American intervention in Haiti during the Clinton presidency. This topic is appropriate and fits well with the mission of the Institute of International Studies. I have taught Eva in previous years and she always struck me as a mature and dedicated student.

I am quite impressed with Eva's research skills and her overall dedication to the topic. The dissertation itself is divided into an introduction, five main chapters, and a conclusion. I like the referencing and Eva's style of writing. She obviously accepted an criticism of earlier drafts provided by Kryštof Kozák and myself and she deserves to be commended for this.

In the introduction, Eva states that the main issue she wishes to analyze is the reason why President Bill Clinton decided to intervene in Haiti. An overview of the relevant literature is also provided. What is nice here is that Eva discusses exactly how each cited source is helpful.

Chapter 1 analyzes the basic concepts and strategies of American foreign policy towards the Caribbean region. She traces the significance of the Caribbean from the era of American imperialism up until the post-Cold War period. Issues like the drug trade and illegal immigration are highlighted. The push for human rights was key and Clinton wishes to be seen as a defender of democracy and human rights.

Chapter 2 is more specific and deals with American foreign policy towards Haiti from the end of the Second World War until the onset of the Clinton presidency. In particular, Eva deals with the Duvalier dictatorship, illegal migration, and AIDS. After Duvalier

was ousted, another junta was in power until 1990 that was succeeded by democratically-elected president, Jean Bertrand Aristide, who, in turn, was overthrown by another junta. Aristide used his contacts in the United States to put pressure on the Bush, Sr. and later the Clinton administration, which decided to act later rather than sooner.

Chapter 3 discusses the foreign policy steps undertaken by the Clinton administration to remove the junta that had ousted Aristide. Eva provides a step-by-step analysis of the activities of the main players, domestic and international. This chapter is most interesting and well-written.

Chapter 4 scrutinizes the motives behind American involvement. Clinton's "pragmatic idealism" carried the day, but other issues like illegal immigration and the lobbying by black American congressmen also played a role.

Chapter 5 analyzes the impact of the economic sanctions imposed on Haiti by the United States between 1991 and 1994. Though the embargo caused great hardship for the Haitian people, Eva correctly states that the sanctions alone did not achieve their political goal of removing the junta. For this to be achieved, the credible threat of force was needed.

In her conclusion, Eva recapitulates her main arguments in a readable, succinct manner. Basically, Clinton's determination to stand up for human rights coupled with the ongoing Haitian refugee crisis led Clinton to act and economic sanctions alone simply were not sufficient to "do the trick."

I am very pleased with Eva's work. Eva Bergmanová-Gnip has fulfilled all the needed requirements for a B.A. dissertation. She has consulted sources, made arguments, and made an impressive case. I recommend an **excellent** mark.

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Doc. PhDr. Francis D. Raška, PhD.
Department of American Studies
Institute of International Studies
Faculty of Social Sciences
Charles University