

Barbora Polachová

B.A. Thesis Evaluation

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Multilateralismus a unilateralismus v Bushově zahraniční politice na případech konfliktů Afghánistánu a Iráku

Barbora Polachová addresses the issues of multilateralism and unilateralism in President George W. Bush's foreign policy. Logically, she cites the examples of Afghanistan and Iraq. I had the pleasure of supervising this dissertation and Barbora was easy to work with and she always took any criticism professionally. When students actually cooperate with their supervisors, it makes matters a lot easier. I applaud Barbora's practical approach.

The work itself contains an introduction (Chapter 1), three main chapters (Chapters 2-4), and a conclusion (Chapter 5). The chapters are organized logically and succinctly and the reader immediately grasps what Barbora is trying to convey. This is precisely what a B.A. thesis should look like. I am proud of Barbora for making the dissertation readable and enjoyable.

In the introduction (Chapter 1), Barbora clearly spells out the two main questions she poses in her work. First, she sets out to investigate the approach of the Bush administration in defending and prosecuting the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. She even defines which phases of the conflicts required a unilateral or multilateral strategy. Second, she wishes to compare the Bush administration's approaches to Afghanistan and Iraq respectively. In the introduction, Barbora also offers a critical evaluation of the literature.

In Chapter 2, Barbora defines explicitly the terms unilateralism and multilateralism. Likewise, she points out the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches and demonstrates a knowledge of the relevant scholarship. The last section of this chapter discusses theoretical models as well as the planning and operational phases of military intervention.

Chapter 3 provides in-depth analysis of the Bush administration's positions on multilateralism, unilateralism, and military intervention in general. It is fitting that the legacies of Woodrow Wilson and Bill Clinton are mentioned. Most of the chapter, however, is dedicated to defining the Bush Doctrine and the perceived position of the United States in the world. The discussion is mature and to the point.

Chapter 4 demonstrates how the Bush Doctrine was applied in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Attention is paid to detail in both case studies and Barbora defends her positions well. Whereas the invasion of Afghanistan enjoyed the support of the international community, the opposite held true for Iraq. What is interesting is the fact that in both conflicts American firepower was the decisive factor regardless of theoretical considerations.

In her conclusion (Chapter 5), Barbora recapitulates her main points and emphasizes the differences between the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The war in Afghanistan was clearly preemptive, whereas the attack on Iraq was preventive. While both conflicts were intended to neutralize the terrorist threat, the Iraq war went further by attempting to transform the political map of the Middle East by toppling a horrible dictatorship and replacing it with a democratic order.

Barbora has produced a wonderful B.A. dissertation, which surpasses the basic requirements. I recommend an **excellent** mark.

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