

## **Supervisor's review**

for Master thesis of: *Irina Valko "Cold Waters, Hot Stakes: Systemic Geostrategic Analysis of International Relations in the Arctic Transborder Region"*

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Social Sciences, Geopolitical studies

Submitted thesis deals with relevant and important issue of currently ongoing debate focused on Arctic region. Author's declared ambition was: "to fill the gap in the civil scientific agenda by offering its own, two-stage version of a systemic, dynamic, and interdisciplinary analysis of the development in the Arctic". Without any doubts it is possible to say, that this ambition was successfully carried out.

Irina Valko's text is perfectly elaborated from formal as well as from contentual point of view and her work deserves full appreciation. Arctic region was logically described and defined from geographical perspective and then consequently, gradually and accurately surveyed within the framework of previously defined theoretical background. Thanks to application of model of five geostrategic action spaces complex picture of regional potential was raised and basic network of relationship between the key actors were created, described and analyzed. Author's final conclusion, which is based on examination of possibilities of future development, where conflict and cooperative potential are reviewed is thus based on firm ground and her "hybrid scenario" as the most probable outcome for next thirty years thus can be accepted as a logical and carefully elaborated analysis proved on many substantial evidences.

Because submitted these corresponds to all academic demands I can recommend it for Theses defense and I propose excellent evaluation.

Prague, June 13, 2011

Michael Romancov, Ph.D.