

KARLOVA UNIVERZITA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut politologických studií

Master's Thesis Assessment

AUTHOR: Francesco Corneo

TITLE OF THE THESIS: The Dialectics of Intervention . An Analysis of Discursive and Theoretical Accounts for Conflict Initiation

ASSESSED BY: Mgr. Martin Riegl, PhD.

ASSESSMENT TYPE: Opponent

1. ASSESSMENT OF THE THESIS CONTENT

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES	MARK
Relevancy of the topic in relation to the current scientific knowledge	1-2
Originality of the thesis, contribution to the science subject field	2
Integrity and scale of sources and literature relevant to the subject study	1-2
Ability for critical appraisal of the sources	1
Standards of working with sources	1
Methodology and its relevancy to the subject study and thesis goals	2
Logic of the thesis structure	1-2
Ability to argue, cohesion and coherence of the argument	1
Terminology in the relevant field	1
Adhesion to the citation norm	2
Language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis	1-2

COMMENTARY:

The author has chosen an interesting and relevant topic that falls into area of conflict studies: *The Dialectics of Intervention. An Analysis of Discursive and Theoretical Accounts for Conflict Initiation.*

The thesis has a well defined and clear structure which flows throughout the the whole thesis. Thesis is dividend into five parts including introduction and conclusion: Introduction, On the

Nexus Between Just War Theory And Legitimizing Discourse, “How”: Structure of the Domestic Legitimizing Discourse, “Why”: Conclusion. The thesis fulfils all formal criteria required by the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The main goal of this reviewed thesis is *The scope of this work is to critically assess the phenomenon of American interventions from the beginning of the post-Cold War era to the 2003 invasion of Iraq*. Francesco decided to use dialectical approach in order to analyze language used by the US authorities to legitimize military conflicts in the period 1991-2001

In general I must say that the author reached his goal stated in the introduction of the thesis. I mainly appreciate his enormous effort to analyze particular presidential speeches ranging from 1991 to 2003 - George H. W. Bush’s addresses on the 1991 invasion of Iraq on UNSC mandate and the 1992 humanitarian intervention in Somalia; Bill Clinton’s addresses on the peacekeeping in Bosnia of 1995 and the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia of 1999; and George W. Bush’s addresses on the “War on Terror” in the aftermath of 9/11, the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, and the 2003 invasion of Iraq paying particular attention to the evolution of the choice of external sources of legitimization invoked to justify armed intervention to the domestic voting population.

The author showed his ability to conduct independent research and critically assess primary as well as secondary sources.

To sum up this review I do recommend to mark this thesis as excellent or good.

2. QUESTIONS FOR THE DEFENSE

3. SUGGESTED MARK

The oponent suggest that this paper should be graded as excellent.

Date: 21/06/2012

Signature: