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Master's Thesis Assessment

AUTHOR: Nigar FARAJULLAYEVA

TITLE OF THE THESIS:

WESTERN ORIENTATION IN THE AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

ASSESSED BY: Markéta Žídková (Dept. of Politics and European Studies, Palacky University)

ASSESSMENT TYPE: Supervisor

ASSESSMENT OF THE THESIS CONTENT

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES MARK

Relevancy of the topic in relation to the current scientific knowledge: 1

Originality of the thesis, contribution to the science subject field: 1

Integrity and scale of sources and literature relevant to the subject study: 2

Ability for critical appraisal of the sources: 2-3

Standards of working with sources: 3

Methodology and its relevancy to the subject study and thesis goals: 3

Logic of the thesis structure: 2

Ability to argue, cohesion and coherence of the argument: 2-3

Terminology in the relevant field: 2-3

Adhesion to the citation norm: 3

Language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis: 2-3

COMMENTARY:

The Thesis' main aim is to provide analysis of *complex nature of the Azerbaijani foreign policy (...) and relations of Azerbaijan with other countries in regional and global context in order to determine which countries are more prioritized*. Nigar Farajullayeva argues that *the focus of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan has shifted towards the West or that foreign policy of Azerbaijan has obtained the Western orientation* (p. 10). She sets two quite clear objectives, a) *to examine the main determinants of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan in order to disclose its context*; b) *to examine the interactions of Azerbaijan with other countries within the regional and global context in order to determine actual priorities of the state*.

Unfortunately, some necessary parts are missing despite the fact that we discussed them during our meetings, for example Literature/Sources analysis. However, Miss Farajullayeva relies on a wide variety of sources and strives to support her arguments with research of well-known analysts (Cornell, Golts, Shaffer, and others)

Miss Farajullayeva's text has both strengths and weaknesses. She identifies moments of re-
refinement of Azerbaijani national identity, describes events that have been important for the
country's development and foreign policy. Given major arguments about current westernization,
could the author comment on her words about the Heydar Aliiev? – I.e.: *Long-term carrier of
Heydar Aliyev in such structures as KGB and Council of Ministers in USSR gave him enough
administrative skills and management experience to recover the country from stagnation.* (p. 29)

The Thesis would definitely need more time if the author wanted to make it really coherent and
well-connected with the theory. Still, as her supervisor, I appreciate Miss Farajullayeva's ability
to work independently and come with interesting ideas. The above commentary enables me to
conclude that the text is acceptable as Master Thesis. I suggest to evaluate it with a grade "2-3,
i.e. "Very good"/"Good" – the Final grade to be based on the defence result.

Marek Kildon'

Prague, 28 August 2012