

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	Analysis of 2010 mass mobilization in Kyrgyzstan: causes and driving forces
Author of the thesis:	Asia Sherniazova
Referee (incl. titles):	PhDr. Slavomír Horák, Ph.D.

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	16
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	20
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	90
The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)	1

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background:

Asia Sherniazova tried to use the theoretical chapter for finding appropriate definition of key factors used in the text - revolution, tribalism, mass mobilization etc. The author did not point out any specific theoretical background to April 2010 events in Kyrgyzstan. As the paper is more practical than theoretical, the lack of some fundamental theory could be problematic from political science point of view. At the same time, however, the lack of deep theoretical approach could also prove the fact that the application of any theory for the events is highly problematic and could shift the events artificially under some theoretical umbrella. Probably this conclusion (coming out indirectly from the text) could have been included in the final part of the thesis.

2) Contribution:

The text of Master Thesis could not naturally be compared with thick volumes of reports, analyses and books which were published about the events as these publications were usually prepared by team of experts. However Mrs. Asia Sherniazova produced high quality and balanced analysis of the events (even despite her family background and sources which could lead her to biased approach). She tried to cover main short-, mid- as well as long-term tendencies, which led to the events in Kyrgyzstan in 2010. She underlined the tribal and family factor as one of key elements of Kyrgyzstani politics which turn out of the control after USSR dissolution. Probably the aspects of political culture establishment could be also included into the analysis and the applicant could talk about it more during the Thesis defense.

3) Methods:

The author combined several methodical approaches, in particular content analysis as well as personal interviews. As I highlighted above, the latter aspect could be seen as the most valuable part of applicant's work. It is still not usual to see such kind of field work during M. A. Thesis preparation. The application of methods is on the high level and shows that the applicant acquired exceptional level of methodical work.

4) Literature:

The literature used for the thesis is absolutely relevant. Moreover, the author proved to be able to critically analyze the sources (often very controversial) and adopt the balanced attitude to the problem. For the third time I have to underline the personal interviews with important insiders both in Europe as well as in Kyrgyzstan. Asia Sherniazova was able to use the wide range of sources starting from relevant scientific literature (books and journals), through interviews and key reports about the events ending up with relevant and appropriate newspaper sources.

5) Manuscript form:

The manuscript is well structured and it has balanced chapters. The author used the good level of English with minor language problems which could be easily corrected through native English proof readers. There are several and appropriate attachments relevant to the topic and adding comprehensive additional information to the text itself.

All in all, I found the Asia Sherniazova's Master Thesis as fully adequate to the Master level. I could undoubtedly recommend the text for the defense within the Master State Exam. In addition to the text the applicant could discuss following issues within the exam:

1. Why the mechanism of revolution is applied for Kyrgyzstan instead of "standard" government changes through elections and other legal mechanisms (p. 20)? Is it just because of the non-working legal implementation in the country?
2. Could you analyze political culture in Kyrgyzstan? You could consider particularly following aspects influencing the contemporary political culture in the country and its role in April 2010 events: a) Soviet legacy, b) establishment of political culture in the first years of independent Kyrgyzstan and the role of the first president Askar Akaev in this process and c) the impact of 2005 events for 2010.

DATE OF EVALUATION: *Prague, September 2, 2013*

Referee Signature