

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Jana Hušková**

Název práce: **Youth International Party v kontextu disentu šedesátých let v USA**

Oponoval (u externích oponentů uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce):

Doc. PhDr. Francis D. Raška, PhD.

1. **OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE** (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle): Jana Hušková has written her B.A. dissertation on the Youth International Party within the context of American dissent in the 1960s. The aim of the work is to discuss how humor and mischief-making were used as tools to publicize the Youth International Party's political goals and how these goals inspired other such movements. She poses the following question: Can the Youth International Party's tactics be considered a legitimate form of political struggle?
2. **VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ** (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.): This topic is very thought-provoking. Miss Hušková has argued her points well, demonstrated a clear vision, and worked well with sources. The methodology is fine. This should come as no surprise because Jana Sehnáková is an eminently qualified supervisor.
3. **FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ** (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.): The language, grammar, footnoting, and all other formal aspects of the work are perfect.
4. **STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE** (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):
Jana Hušková has written an interesting B.A. dissertation on the Youth International Party's activities in the 1960s. She tackles the issue of whether humor and mischief-making are legitimate forms of protest. The work contains an Introduction, four main chapters, and a Conclusion.
In the Introduction, Miss Hušková poses three main questions. Firstly, she probes the activities of the Youth International Party and their effect on the protests in Chicago, as well as their impact on the subsequent trial. Linked to this question is the matter of the extent to which the Youth International Party succeeded in attracting younger people to the anti-Vietnam War movement. Secondly, the Youth International Party's relationship with the media is addressed as is their ability to utilize the media in order to get its message across. Thirdly, she analyzes the program of the Youth International Party in an effort to determine whether this movement had a serious political agenda or simply based its existence on mischief-making. In addition, the Introduction spells out the content of the main chapters and an overview of the relevant literature is provided.
Chapter 1 discusses the issue of dissent in the United States with an emphasis on the 1960s, the Vietnam War, civil rights, etc. The various protest movements are analyzed ad nauseam. This comment of mine is in no way directed towards the author. It is simply that I have read so much about the deeds of 1960s protesters and I am no admirer of their respective causes. The chapter is indeed well structured and Miss Hušková's points are properly argued.
In Chapter 2, Miss Hušková traces the origins of the Youth International Party and the motivations of its main leaders, namely Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin. The goals and tactics of the Youth International Party are discussed in vivid detail. The backgrounds of Hoffman and Rubin are also mentioned. This chapter is quite good and provides food for thought to the reader.
Chapter 3 tells of the preparations for the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago and the aims of the Youth International Party and other dissenters. The plans and actual activities of both the protesters and the police in Chicago are accurately depicted. Once again, Miss Hušková has done a good job.

Chapter 4 is devoted solely to the Youth International Party's activities in Chicago. Hoffman, Rubin, and their supporters behaved quite outlandishly and their pranks are vividly portrayed by Miss Hušková. Great emphasis is placed on *Chicago Tribune* articles on the events. The Festival of Life is also discussed in detail. A distinction is indeed made between radical protesters and those who participated in the festivities out of curiosity and a desire to have fun. I like this chapter.

In the Conclusion, Miss Hušková rightly concludes that the so-called "Yippies" made their mark as a bunch of mischief-making protesters who were made popular not due to any clear message or political program, but through their disgusting, shocking behavior. Therefore, they cannot be considered a classical (conventional) dissident group. The media attention that their activities attracted did have an impact on the future course of the protest movement. In my opinion, the legacy of the Youth International Party and its activities in Chicago was negative. I must add that 1968 was a very tumultuous year due to the Tet Offensive and the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. Looking back, it was only logical that groups like the "Yippies" emerged because the country was approaching a political climax that would culminate in 1969 at Woodstock and in 1970 with the disbanding of Students for a Democratic Society and the onset of urban terrorism perpetrated by fringe leftist malcontents.

Jana Hušková has produced a B.A. dissertation of outstanding quality. I am glad that she has stated the reality accurately. Basically, people like Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin were little more than sociopaths, who lived their young lives with little regard for responsibility, duty, or the well-being of their country. Though Hoffman remained a "Yippie" at heart and Rubin later became a gentrified "Yuppie", both died younger than they had to. After all, Abbie Hoffman overdosed (possibly intentionally) and Jerry Rubin was struck down by a car in an intoxicated state after failing to check if it was safe to cross the street.

I recommend an **excellent** mark.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):

Do you think that Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin were more interested in themselves than the state of American society? Why or why not?

To what extent has the legacy of 1960s radical activism corrupted American education and values? Please explain.

6. DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA
(**v ý b o r n ě**, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): **Navrhuji klasifikaci V Ý B O R N Ě.**

Datum: 24.8.2013

Podpis:

Pozn.: Hodnocení píše k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.