

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

Title of the thesis:	The Hegemony of Political Power underlying the Development of Supra-State Institutions
Author of the thesis:	Patrick O'Brien
Referee (incl. titles):	PhDr.T.Sedláček

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>	18
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	16
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	85
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: Author provides reader with rich theoretical background using classics as well as current academics of the field and also bringing recent new approach to the problem of power battle in social and economical network of international and transnational organizations. The goal of the paper is quite challenging and it might be the case where slightly deeper research could be helpful to bring light to complicated structure of agents and structures themselves.

2) Contribution: Using multi-disciplinary approach helps to see the problem of power struggles form wider perspective and helps to understand the reasons for behavior that some models might omit. Author via using case studies shows how particular situations reveal motives of agents and help us understand their behavior.

3) Methods: As core method author decided to use approach of John Searle and Anthony Giddens to apply it on supra-state institutions such as European Union and World Bank. Using case studies is valuable input especially when they help to uncover the underlying theories of the field. Multi-disciplinary approach brings more theoretical aspects together which complement one another to bring brighter picture of the reality.

4) Literature: Author uses wide range of literature to demonstrate and support his points. Sources are used properly and are based on well-known and respected scholars. It shows author devoted enough energy in order to orient not only himself, but reader as well, in a field of research. Author is using classics of the field and shows how their opinion is still valid even in modern functioning of the society. Using current academic research on the topic of interest, he shows the skill to comprehend both classic and modern approach to the problem of power struggle in transnational organizational structures.

5) Manuscript form: It would be beneficial for better orientation and systematic presentation of information to use slightly more detailed form of structure of thesis. It could be useful to form clear hypothesis that could be tested to help readers to orient in the text and structure of the paper.

DATE OF EVALUATION:

Referee Signature

The referee should give comments to the following requirements:

1) THEORETICAL BACKGROUND: Can you recognize that the thesis was guided by some **theoretical fundamentals** relevant for this thesis topic? Were some important theoretical concepts omitted? Was the theory used in the thesis consistently incorporated with the topic and hypotheses tested?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

2) CONTRIBUTION: Evaluate if the author presents **original ideas** on the topic and aims at demonstrating **critical thinking** and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and relevant empirical material. Is there a distinct **value added** of the thesis (relative to knowledge of a university-educated person interested in given topic)? Did the author explain **why** the observed phenomena occurred? Were the policy implications well founded?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

3) METHODS: Are the **hypotheses** for this study clearly stated, allowing their further verification and testing? Are the theoretical explanations, empirical material and **analytical tools** used in the thesis relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the aspiration level of the study? Is the thesis **topic comprehensively analyzed** and does the thesis not make trivial or irrelevant detours off the main body stated in the thesis proposal? More than 10 points signal an exceptional work, **which requires your explanation "why" it is so**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

4) LITERATURE REVIEW: The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and **command of recent literature**. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way and disposes with a representative bibliography. (Remark: references to Wikipedia, websites and newspaper articles are a sign of **poor research**). If they dominate you cannot give more than 8 points. References to books published by prestigious publishers and articles in renowned journals give much better impression.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

5) MANUSCRIPT FORM: The thesis is **clear and well structured**. The author uses appropriate language and style, including academic **format** for quotations, graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables, is easily readable and **stimulates thinking**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Czech grading	US grading
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= A
61 – 80	2	= good	= B
51 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= C
41 – 50	3	= satisfactory	= D
0 – 40	4	= fail	= not recommended for defence