

## Evaluation of the Master's Thesis

International Economic and Political Studies, IEPS

Faculty of Social Sciences

Charles University, Prague

<b>Name of student</b>	Jennifer Schaller
<b>Title of the thesis</b>	The development of Political Party Systems in the Czech Republic and Slovakia after 1989
<b>Date of evaluation</b>	June 27 <sup>th</sup> 2006
<b>Opponent</b>	PhDr. Malvína Hladká

The development of political party systems in the Czech Republic and Slovakia after 1989 is one of the most interesting topics within the analysis of comparative political science in this region. Apart from the general dilemmas of transition to democracy, many political scientist, from well known research centers, focus on differences in consolidation and institutionalization of political party systems and also on evaluating their stability/instability. The effort of student Jennifer Schaller, in this context, seems very beneficial and up to date. And this is the reason why presented thesis fulfills the basic criteria – the proper relevancy for the research - from methodological, theoretical and political perspectives.

Technical structure of the text is transparent: it starts with the theoretical introductory part, where student prove her attempts to in-depth description and analysis of the topic and present the methodology and structure that will be used. Topic itself is divided into five particular units. The division in chapters is logical – arranges the temporal lines and describes the periods of Czech and Slovak political and historical development from 1948 to contemporary period - including outstanding analysis of all of the most important events: hegemonic party rule, Velvet revolution, split of Czechoslovakia and the post communist elections. Due to my opinion, the most constituent parts are the last two capitols. There the author focuses on turning point of the year 1998 and compares Czech and Slovak party system – with all their differences and similarities.

All the chapters are divided into paragraphs in a correct manner. The argumentation is structured correctly and really easy to follow, so the thesis fulfills all the criteria set to M.A. program according to the standards of the Institute of Political Science. Profitable supplements of the text are numerous figures and tables that demonstrate and even strengthen the ability of author to deal with complex data.

Jennifer Schaller has formulated the research questions clearly and they were analyzed extraordinary well and critically. She has demonstrated advanced knowledge of the research field and the conclusions of her thesis have showed author's ability to work with all kind of

informative sources and literature but mainly her proficiency in this topic. Such extraordinarily paper is often just an exception among thesis and it really was a pleasure for me to oppose this M.A. thesis.

Therefore, I propose to evaluate the thesis as **excellent**. In my point of view, there is also a good opportunity to honour this student with special appraisal of “pochvala děkana” (**Dean’s Appreciation**). However, the consideration of such proposal depends on the resolution of State Final Examine Commission.

