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Advisor's evaluation of the M.A. thesis **The Development of Political Party Systems in the Czech Republic and Slovakia after 1989**, author: Jennifer Schaller, IEPS FSV UK, Summer Semester 2005/2006

M.A. thesis of Jennifer Schaller **The Development of Political Party Systems in the Czech Republic and Slovakia after 1989** is extraordinary excellent text. The thesis analyzes and compares the development of party systems in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

It starts with theoretical introduction of the transition to democracy, political parties and party systems. Topic itself is divided into 5 units. In the first one author provides an in-depth introduction of parties and the party system that existed before 1989. The second part focuses on the „Velvet revolution“ and emergence of opposition coalition Civic Forum and Public Against Violence. She follows their foundation, behaviour during and after transitional period, 1990 elections and finally after-election development that led to the split and formation „regular“ political parties and later to the split of Czechoslovakia as well.

In the fourth part author provides paralel analysis of the political development and party system formation in the Czech Republic and Slovakia after the split. Special attention is given to factors that made the development in each of these countries different. This chapter ends with 1998 election, seen as „turning point“ in the party politics in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In final chapter of the chronological section author covers the period of 1998-2006, including future prospects of the parties and party systems development in both countries. **This could be good topic to talk about during the M.A. thesis defense (based on the results of 2006 elections in the Czech Republic and Slovakia).**

Last section of the thesis focuses on comparative analysis of Czech and Slovak post-communist parties. She describes the development of Czech and Slovak communist parties since 1989 and shows how they adapted to the new situation after the fall of communist regime, especially what were the factors for different way Czech and Slovak communists took.

Jennifer Schaller has shown perfect knowledge of methodology and ability to work with information sources not only in English language, but also in Czech and Slovak languages. Her approach to work was very active. The text not only fullfills the criteria set to M.A. thesis, it goes even further. Therefore, I propose to evaluate the thesis as **excellent** and I would like to ask the State Final Exam Commission to consider a proposal for **Dean's Appreciation** (pochvala děkana) of this extraordinary M.A. thesis.

In Prague, June 25th 2006

Petr Just, IPS FSV UK