

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Jiří Schneedörfler**

Název práce: **Rádio svobodná Evropa: Vznik stanice a počátky československé redakce**

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): This work aims to map the circumstances surrounding the establishment of Radio Free Europe (RFE) in the United States and those individuals who facilitated the process. Furthermore, the work will focus on the Czechoslovak Desk of RFE and the people who assisted its inception and contributed to programming. The reaction of Communist Czechoslovak institutions shall be scrutinized.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.): I find the work to be logical, well structured, and the assertions and conclusions are both sound and valid.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.): The author's Czech (as far as I can tell) is satisfactory and sources are properly cited and referenced. All formal requirements have been met.

4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

Jiří Schneedörfler has chosen an interesting topic for his B.A. dissertation. In the first place, the Czechoslovak Desk of RFE is relatively "virgin territory" if one disregards the self-serving memoirs written by individual employees in different periods and the brief articles written by various people. To my knowledge, Anna Bischof is currently writing a PhD. dissertation on the topic in Munich and Prokop Tomek studies the issue in detail in Prague. I myself conduct research on Czechoslovak exile organizations during the Cold War and have only superficially touched upon the issue of Radio Free Europe.

The dissertation is divided into an Introduction, three main chapters, and a Conclusion. The structure is logical and the length is adequate. I am pleased with the referencing and the diversity of sources. In the ensuing paragraphs, I shall comment on each part of the treatise.

The Introduction maps out the remainder of the thesis. The content of each of the three chapters is explained in detail and an analysis of the sparse literature on the topic is provided. Overall, the Introduction fulfills its purpose and inspires the reader to devote more time to the body of the work.

In Chapter 1, Schneedörfler discusses the background leading to the inception of RFE. He delves into the National Committee for Free Europe (NCFE), the decision to found RFE, and the inauguration of the Czechoslovak Desk. The roles of Czechoslovak exiles Ferdinand Peroutka and Pavel Tigrid are discussed in detail, as well as the structure of RFE in both New York and Munich. I have no problem here.

Chapter 2 deals with actual programming, as well as personal and political disputes (i.e. the Czech-Slovak problem, the Peroutka-Tigrid split). Schneedörfler presents some of the delicate issues in a very amusing way, which is to his credit. I very much like this chapter.

The final chapter (Chapter 3) deals with the reaction of the Czechoslovak Communist authorities to RFE and their efforts to limit any impact on the captive Czechoslovak population. Counter-propaganda conducted by the Communists tried to paint the bleakest possible picture of Czechoslovak exiles as allegedly being immoral puppets of the American imperialists. There is a balanced approach here and it is important that Schneedörfler

acknowledges the fact that the CIA, which stood behind the NCFE, RFE, and various exile organizations, indeed was the main force (at least initially) financing RFE and its associated activities. In addition to counter-propaganda, the Czechoslovak authorities resorted to electronic jamming of RFE broadcasts, the interrogation of secret collaborators, and secret operations designed to sabotage RFE activities and effectiveness. The rest of the chapter analyzes the reception of RFE in Czechoslovakia and the impact of individual programs.

In the Conclusion, Schneedörfler recapitulates the points presented in the body of the dissertation and he convincingly argues that RFE was indeed one of the most significant exile organizations up until the end of the Cold War.

This dissertation is of fine quality. It is obvious that a B.A. dissertation cannot be as detailed as an M.A. or PhD. Schneedörfler has successfully completed the task and it is my opinion that he should receive an **excellent** mark.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):
Have you considered looking into the impact of the later 1968 exiles on RFE in greater detail?

How deeply did ethnic tensions and so-called „tribalism“ affect cooperation within RFE? (hint: anti-Semitism, Czech-Slovak rivalry, 1948ers vs. 1968ers)

6. **DOPORUČENÍ** / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA
(**výborně**, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): I recommend an **excellent** classification.

Datum: 31.5.2015

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.