

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek vedoucího)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Nathaniel Wesley**

Název práce: **The Successes of Soft Power in International Relations**

Vedoucí práce (u externích vedoucích 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): The purpose of this M.A. thesis is to examine the role of the United States Peace Corps as a tool of soft power in the context of international relations and at the use of soft power as an effective part of diplomacy.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.): This topic is both interesting and challenging. The sources consulted are appropriate for a dissertation on the M.A. level. The argumentation is sound and valid. Nathaniel (Nathan) has obviously gone to great lengths in his research and the result is a fine dissertation.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.): All sources are cited correctly and the language used is good. It would have been nice if he had numbered the individual chapters, but I suppose it is up to each individual author to decide how to organize the structure of his or her work. Also, Nathan should have used the title “contents” rather than “summary” on the page listing the individual chapters and the relevant pagination. Unfortunately, there are a number of minor grammatical and typographical errors in the text, but I do not see this as a major weakness.

4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):
Nathan has chosen the idea of soft power as a tool of diplomacy as the subject of his M.A. dissertation. There is an Introduction, the main content divided into individual sections (unnumbered), and a Conclusion. I will do my best to critique the work in the paragraphs that follow.
In the Introduction, Nathan aptly defines the term “soft power” and he analyzes the history of the United States’ use of soft power during the Cold War. He mentions the Peace Corps as a prime example of American soft power and he discusses the ideas of Joseph Nye and other leading scholars.
In the body of the work, Nathan begins with a discussion of both hard and soft power and the concept of “smart power.” He states that American culture is appealing to many people throughout the world and how American policymakers have used this to the country’s advantage. Despite the effective use of its soft power, Nathan expresses his doubts about soft power becoming the main pillar of American foreign policy because of its global power status and he points to Norway as an example of a country that overwhelmingly utilizes soft power as a tool of its foreign policy. The rest of the treatise shows the many ways in which the Peace Corps is the embodiment of American soft power. Nathan concentrates on the influence of the Peace Corps in English-speaking African countries.
The Conclusion recapitulates the rationale behind the establishment of the Peace Corps and the evolution of the organization in the half century since its founding. Nathan emphasizes that Africa remains the main theatre of Peace Corps operations with Latin America a close second.
I like this work. Nathan has done well in the American Studies program and it is obvious that he has sought the advice of my dear colleague, Norma Hervey, who guided him in his choice of sources. In fact, Norma has been of more help to Nathan than I have. I recommend an **excellent** mark contingent upon the oral defense.

5. SPOLUPRÁCE S VEDOUCÍM PRÁCE (komunikace s vedoucím práce, schopnost reflektovat připomínky, posun od původního záměru apod.)

Nathan faithfully consulted me when preparing his dissertation. I think, however, that Norma Hervey deserves far more credit than I do. It is wonderful when students do not rely merely on their official supervisor because more advice generally leads to a better final product. Nathan's work is evidence of that.

6. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):
1. Do you think that the Peace Corps can remain relevant in today's world with the drastic funding cuts by the American Government and the United States' declining power?
7. **DOPORUČENÍ** / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA
(**výborně**, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): I recommend an **excellent** classification.

Datum: 11.6.2013

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.