Masters Thesis: On the Nature of the Divergent Economic Outcomes during the Post-Socialist Transition

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The aim of this thesis is to try to explain why the development after the fall of communism has been as divergent in different countries. I have had the possibility to follow the process of writing and I really appreciate the very serious approach the author has been giving to her work.

The thesis is well structured and its parts are balanced. In the first chapter, different debates about the post-socialist transformation are summarized. In the second chapter, the U-shaped economic development during the transition is introduced, in the third chapter, the core of this thesis - the search for explanation of divergent developments is presented. In the concluding 4th chapter, some predictions for the future are formulated, policy implications are discussed and the whole thesis is summarized.

I have consulted with the author the preceding versions of this thesis and in this final version, all my comments have been taken into account already.

For the final discussion, I suggest to discuss the approach of Havrylyshin - its pros and cons.

I recommend this thesis for the final discussion and I suggest the A evaluation. In my opinion, this thesis is a good candidate for the Dean’s prize.

Prague, June 2nd, 2006

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