

**UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE**  
**Fakulta sociálních věd**  
**Institut mezinárodních studií**

**PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE**  
**(Posudek vedoucího)**

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Gabriela Veselá**

Název práce: **Změna americké politiky vůči Kubě po nástupu Baracka Obamy**

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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 aim of the work is to analyze the change in American foreign policy towards Cuba after the ascent to power of Barack Obama and Raúl Castro.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.): The topic is very well presented and Gabriela argues her points well. She has done a good job working with sources and citing them.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.): Technically, I do not find fault with the dissertation and it fulfills all formal requirements.

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

This dissertation contains an Introduction, four main chapters, and a Conclusion. The sources consulted indicate that Gabriela has widely read on the topic. I shall now briefly comment upon the individual parts of the work.

In the Introduction, Gabriela elucidates the goal of her dissertation and she clearly points out the content of ensuing chapters and the sources utilized. Her analysis of the various sources is impressive.

Chapter 1 addresses the opinions about American policy towards Cuba and the various influences that have helped to shape policy. Gabriela discusses the opinion of the American public concerning Cuban-American relations. As can be expected, there have been proponents and opponents of the American embargo. Gabriela rightly claims that the failure of hardline American policy to achieve any results has led to an increase in the number of opponents of American policy. As Gabriela demonstrates, the polling data between 2009 and 2014 indicates that Americans are more inclined than ever to moderate the tough U.S. policy towards Cuba and an overwhelming majority would like to see free travel between the United States and Cuba. Even the initial support of hardline American policy among Cubans in the United States has declined. It appears that over half of Cuban-Americans would now support the candidate who favors reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. This can be seen in party preferences of Cuban-Americans. The Cuban-American community was once solidly Republican and now only a slight majority supports Republicans. Even the United Nations member states massively favor ending the American embargo. This chapter is brief and to the point. I have no problems here.

In Chapter 2, Gabriela discusses the main barriers to negotiations between the United States and Cuban Governments aiming to ease tensions and normalize relations. These include violations of the human rights of Cuban citizens, the repression of political prisoners in Cuba, the American embargo and American demands that democracy be established in Cuba, the presence of Cuba on the American list of countries sponsoring terrorism, the imprisonment of the so-called "Cuban Five" in the United States, and the detention of American Alan Gross in Cuba. This chapter is divided into sections that clearly discuss each of the aspects.

Chapter 3 represents an analysis of the Obama Administration's approach to Cuba prior to 2014. Gabriela first scrutinizes the role of the Cuban issue in the American presidential campaign of 2008. In line with the change of heart among the Cuban-American community, Obama received more overall votes in Florida than any previous

Democratic candidate. The remainder of the chapter maps the evolution of United States policy towards Cuba during Obama's presidency. Obama's initial strategy was to support the instauration of democracy in Cuba. During the 2012 presidential campaign, Cuban-American relations were barely touched upon. It seemed that clandestine negotiations were leading nowhere and that American policy vis-à-vis Cuba was in a state of crisis. Gabriela's account is balanced and accurate.

In Chapter 4, Gabriela evaluates the breakthrough in U.S.-Cuban relations that occurred on 17 December 2014 and its aftermath. Gabriela describes the moment when President Obama announced the new policy, which was the result of secret negotiations aided by the Vatican and Canadian Government. President Raúl Castro announced the changes in a similar address to the Cuban people. The rest of the chapter goes into the details of the consequences of the new policy, which included the exchange of the "Cuban Five" for Alan Gross. Gabriela argues her points well and the vivid portrayal of events is to her credit.

The Conclusion summarizes the main points of the individual chapters and Gabriela states that Cuban-American relations have indeed improved during Obama's presidency. The duration of these improved relations between the United States and Cuba is an open question and it remains to be seen how the thaw in relations will benefit the citizens of Cuba.

Gabriela has successfully completed the task she set for herself when undertaking this B.A. project. She faithfully consulted with me and was open to constructive criticism and advice. I recommend an **excellent** mark.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):  
How do you see relations between Cuban-Americans and those who have lived under Communism in Cuba evolving?

What sort of political system might emerge in Cuba following the eventual deaths of Fidel and Raúl Castro?

6. **DOPORUČENÍ** / **NEDOPORUČENÍ** K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA

(**výborně**, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): I recommend an **excellent** classification.

Datum: 31.5.2015

Podpis:

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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.