

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	The Challenge of Modern Maritime Piracy for International Community
Author of the thesis:	Gabriel Szuma
Referee (incl. titles):	Mgr. Martin Riegl, Ph.D.

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	92
The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)	1

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background: Author's research is based on theory of territorial state, failed state and New Middle Ages Theory, which enables him to elaborate the changing role of the state in particular world regions such as Horn of Africa, where transfer of power from the state to nonstate actors (state failure, power diffusion) contributes to emergence of illegal activities

2) Contribution: The objective of this thesis is to analyze a phenomenon of present piracy as local, regional as well as an international threat to the world politics. The introduction is used to provide a concise overview on what will follow in the main part. The author presents comprehensive and to some extent original research and transformative synthesis which makes this thesis contributive to geopolitics. To sum up my review Mr. Szuma presents an analyses of how modern-day piracy functions, where and why it thrives, and what are its geopolitical impacts for the international community. The author managed to reflect important recent trends in Somali piracy (particularly sudden decline of piracy attacks after 2012).

3) Methods: Methodology is clearly stated as well as the hypotheses which are following: "*Does piracy contribute to a failed state, or is it the other way round?, As a side effect, does piracy strengthen or weaken the position of the international community as a whole?, Through its gradual transformation, is piracy approaching its demise, or its self-preservation in new forms?, Can piracy survive in today's globalised world?*"

4) Literature: The author quotes very extensive, relevant (authors like Bahadur, Hansen, Bromley, Heller-Roazen, Kraska, Marley, Murphy, Payne, Rahman, Snoddon and many others do figure in the literature) and recent literature which shows that the author has a profound knowledge of the literature concerning the topic. The author further analyzes relevant documents such as resolutions of the UN, international law documents or statistics provided by International Maritime Organisation and International Maritime Bureau.

5) Manuscript form: The thesis is clear and well structured into seven chapters (including introduction and conclusion), the author uses appropriate language and the thesis has proper academic format. I am sympathetic to analysis of piracy not only in the Horn of Africa, therefore I can recommend this paper for a defence. I recommend A grade (excellent).

DATE OF EVALUATION: 10.1. 2015

Referee Signature

The referee should give comments to the following requirements:

1) THEORETICAL BACKGROUND: Can you recognize that the thesis was guided by some **theoretical fundamentals** relevant for this thesis topic? Were some important theoretical concepts omitted? Was the theory used in the thesis consistently incorporated with the topic and hypotheses tested?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

2) CONTRIBUTION: Evaluate if the author presents **original ideas** on the topic and aims at demonstrating **critical thinking** and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and relevant empirical material. Is there a distinct **value added** of the thesis (relative to knowledge of a university-educated person interested in given topic)? Did the author explain **why** the observed phenomena occurred? Were the policy implications well founded?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

3) METHODS: Are the **hypotheses** for this study clearly stated, allowing their further verification and testing? Are the theoretical explanations, empirical material and **analytical tools** used in the thesis relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the aspiration level of the study? Is the thesis **topic comprehensively analyzed** and does the thesis not make trivial or irrelevant detours off the main body stated in the thesis proposal? More than 10 points signal an exceptional work, **which requires your explanation "why" it is so**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

4) LITERATURE REVIEW: The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and **command of recent literature**. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way and disposes with a representative bibliography. (Remark: references to Wikipedia, websites and newspaper articles are a sign of **poor research**). If they dominate you cannot give more than 8 points. References to books published by prestigious publishers and articles in renowned journals give much better impression.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

5) MANUSCRIPT FORM: The thesis is **clear and well structured**. The author uses appropriate language and style, including academic **format** for quotations, graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables, is easily readable and **stimulates thinking**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Czech grading	US grading
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= A
61 – 80	2	= good	= B
51 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= C
41 – 50	3	= satisfactory	= D
0 – 40	4	= fail	= not recommended for defence