UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií
PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): Iveta Černá
Název práce: American Cities in the Post-Industrial Reality: Detroit and Pittsburgh

Vedoucí práce (u externích vedoucích uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce):
Kryštof Kozák

1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle):
In her thesis, Iveta Černá examines transformation of heavy-industry and single-industry oriented city economies into post-industrial economies. In her comparative case study of Detroit and Pittsburgh, she examines the strategies and approaches adopted by these two cities, identifies the major challenges to the process and analyzes which of the cities has adopted more successfully to deindustrialization of their economies, identifying the reasons for their success or failure. Pittsburgh was selected as a successful example of such transformation while Detroit was selected as a failure.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.):
The author selected very interesting topic since lessons of American cities undergoing deindustrialization have been generating some interests in the Czech Republic too, particularly in the region of Ostrava, which is famous for its coal mines. Ostrava-based universities are very much interested in how U.S. cities managed their transformation and are looking to them for inspiration.
In her work, the author first introduces the general trends in development of cities in the Rust Belt – the phases of industrialization, post-WWII transformation and expansion into suburbs and exurbs which caused depopulation of city centers, high level of vacancy, flight of businesses, increasing unemployment and shrinking tax base. Downtown areas of Detroit or Pittsburgh thus ended up with low-income/poor families who could not find their way out. Since these families were often African American, this phenomenon greatly contributed to racial segregation and racial tensions. Again, this is a broadly discussed issue today with respect to current events in Ferguson/St. Louis, which is one of the most segregated cities in the U.S.
In the second chapter, the author looks in detail into the history of Detroit´s and Pittsburgh´s economies and development. She successfully demonstrates that both are examples of cities that faced problems due to their single-industry focus and lack of urban development.
In the third chapter, Iveta Černá looks at different approaches to urban planning in order to revive downtown areas, attract more businesses and affluent people to the city centers and cope with the impact of urban decline.
In the fourth chapter, the author examines in more detail the development of economic strategies to support successful transformation and the major requirements for these strategies´ success. She identifies the importance of regional coalition-building, local government´s engagement, and PPP.

In the concluding chapter, the author clearly identifies the major challenges and obstacles that both Pittsburgh and Detroit had to face. Each of the cities had its own specifics that turned out to be either an obstacle (such as Detroit´s urban sprawl and racial composition that made the push for social cohesion and community building extremely difficult, if not impossible) or an advantage (such as Pittsburgh´s compact geography). She also points to the fact that Pittsburgh, unlike Detroit which was until recently sustained by the automobile industry, got a headstart. By realizing the changes in the global economy by the 1970s, Pittsburgh already started planning a strategy for its exit from heavy industry into post-industrial production, focusing on innovation, building knowledge-based economy via cooperation with local universities, and attracting hi-tech investors. Detroit is a late comer to the process.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.):

The author used a large variety of sources. The thesis is carefully written, there are almost no grammar mistakes and typos. The structure of the text is well thought over, it is easy to read. To support her arguments, the author uses different graphs, tables, and pictures. The footnotes are carefully elaborated, I would just point to minor problem with footnotes no. 155, 156 a 171.

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

Iveta Černá´s thesis is very well-written and I really enjoyed reading it. Despite having almost no knowledge on the subject, Iveta´s analysis was clear and made sense. The topic was well selected - in fact, urban history and the transformation of American cities, their decline and reinvention, are now hot topic among American Studies experts. I particularly appreciate that Iveta was able to extract the general trends, without going into the nitty-gritty detail, which would be more appropriate for urban studies.

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

6. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):

Did Pittsburgh´s transformation serve as an inspiration for other U.S. cities?
What was the role of labor unions in the transformation process? I am particularly interested in the role of automobile labor unions in Detroit.

7. DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA
      (výborně, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl):

The thesis fulfills requirements for Master´s theses and is recommended for defense. I propose grade **excellent**.

Datum: August 23, 2014   Podpis: Jana Sehnalkova

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.