REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

Title of the thesis:	**Iran and The United States relations in the context of the Nuclear Deal**
Author of the thesis:	**A. Said**
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
Theoretical background (max. 20)	15
Contribution (max. 20)	18
Methods (max. 20)	18
Literature (max. 20)	14
Manuscript form (max. 20)	20
TOTAL POINTS *(max. 100)*	**85**
The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)	**2**

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**:

Theoretically the thesis is framed within the theories of Classical realism and Liberalism with a particular focus on Democratic Peace theory, both relevant, no doubts there. Both theories provides the authors with a proper theoretical framework in order to analyze and explain Teheran´s foreign policy and strategy in the most complex and complicated geopolitical theatre on the globe.

2) **Contribution**:

Miss Said provides historical excurse into changing nature of bilateral relations between the US and Iran since the beginning of the Cold War onwards. She reveals particular influences shaping the evolvement of US-Iran relations in particular phases of the Cold War. Besides that the role of external regional, but not only, players is explained and analyzed, thus the thesis provides a topical and manifold picture of this shatter-belt. The strong side of the thesis is its empirical part, I find the thesis very informative and topical. Also I can agree with arguments provided in concluding remarks of the paper.

3) **Methods**:

The author has decided to use the qualitative method (page 4) in her thesis.

4) **Literature**:

Miss Said has gathered an impressive amount of relevant sources, theoretical monographs to large extent. On the other side I do complete miss works of geopoliticans like G.Friedman (recent works), R.D.Kaplan, J.Marsheimer or F.Zakaria (and many more) who are nonnegligible with regards to the US-Iran relations. At least those authors would help Miss Said to understand the possible geopolitical impact of the US-Iran deal on the future geopolitical theatre in the Middle East, which is very much determined by geography as author correclty argues. Also Israeli authors like D.Shueftan or S.Bar who were voicing strong criticism of B.Obama´s administration are missing.

5) Manuscript form: The thesis format meets all FSS´s requirements, but more importantly allows the reader a fluent reading.

DATE OF EVALUATION: August, 25th 2016

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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