

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Nela Vejvodová**

Název práce: **Souvislost americké invaze do Iráku v roce 2003 se současným rozmachem organizace Islámský stát v regionu Blízkého východu**

Oponoval (u externích oponentů 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):

This work deals with the causal relationship between the American invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the later rise of ISIS. The following question is addressed: Is the American-led invasion of Iraq the only cause of the actual crisis in the Middle East?

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.):

This topic is complex and interesting. The work is based on solid logical argumentation.

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

This dissertation is well written and properly referenced. I am satisfied that it meets all formal requirements.

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

Nela Vejvodová has produced a thought-provoking, investigative B.A. dissertation on the causal relationship between the United States invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the subsequent rise of ISIS. She seeks to explore why ISIS has emerged and whether there are other factors than merely the American-led invasion that are worthy of consideration. The treatise is divided into an Introduction, three main chapters, and a Conclusion. In the ensuing paragraphs, I will critique each individual section of the work.

In the Introduction, Nela rightly states that it is far too easy to point the finger at the United States for the current crisis in the Middle East. She clearly informs the reader of the aim of each main chapter and provides a nice literature review.

Chapter 1 is devoted fully to the second Iraq war, which involved the presence of United States military forces in the country from 2003 until 2011. Nela's recollection of events is accurate and the chapter smoothly glides into Chapter 2.

In Chapter 2, Nela discusses Al-Qaeda in Iraq and the path to the emergence of the Islamic State. Initially, Islamic State was called Organization for Monotheism and Jihad, but after six months, it was renamed Islamic State. Initially, the organization was limited to the territory of Iraq.

Chapter 3 directly tackles the question of what caused the rise of ISIS. In the first section, Nela analyzes how the United States underestimated the possibility of radicalization of former (pro-Saddam) Iraqi military and bureaucratic apparatus. Then, she delves into the issue of Shia vs. Sunni Islam in Iraq. The Sunnis (though a minority) had been favored by Saddam only to find themselves discriminated against in post-war Iraq. The issue of the American detention facility, Camp Bucca, which became a breeding ground for radicals, is also addressed. Nela then evaluates the Middle Eastern tradition of tribalism and the overall underestimation of powerful tribes and clans. She points out that tribal loyalties superseded all else in the region long before the Americans became involved.

In the Conclusion, Nela emphasizes that, while the American invasion and mistakes made by American military policymakers and military commanders played a role in the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, the deep roots of tribalism in the region and mistakes made by the Iraqi government in discriminating against the formerly politically dominant Sunni minority played a part as did Bashar Assad's Syria, which initially supported Islamists.

This is a well-written B.A. dissertation that deserves to be defended. I recommend an EXCELLENT mark.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):
What role did the politically-motivated withdrawal of American troops from Iraq in 2011 play in the escalation of the Middle East crisis?

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

Datum: **Praha, 5.6.2016**

Podpis:

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.