REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS
GPS

Title of the thesis:	**BALANCE OF POWER OR HEGEMONY IN SOUTH AMERICA?**
Author of the thesis:	**Matías Iglesias**
Referee *(incl. titles)*:	**PhDr. Malvína Krausz Hladká**

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)	19
Contribution (max. 20)	20
Methods (max. 20)	18
Literature (max. 20)	19
Manuscript form (max. 20)	19
TOTAL POINTS *(max. 100)*	**95**
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:
Mearsheimer's offensive realism is the theory upon which the thesis is constituted. Offensive realism is used to analyse the role of the United States and the prospects of a South American inter-state coalition to check Brazilian rise. Also, neoclassical realism, in particular the works of Randall Schweller and Jeffrey W. Taliaferro are used to explain intervening state level variables. The research question and hypotheses of this thesis have been formulated clearly and they were analyzed well and critically.

2) Contribution:
Understanding complexity of regional hegemony is an important and very interesting topic to analyse. Long standing neighborhood relations of Latin American states is also a theme for many political scientist from well-known research centers who focus on key factors feeding the tensions and its effects. The contribution of student Matías Iglesias, in this context, seems very beneficial and up to date.
Matías Iglesias has demonstrated knowledge of the research field and the conclusions of his thesis have showed author's ability to work with all kind of informative sources and literature but mainly his proficiency in this topic. Therefore, I propose to evaluate the thesis as excellent.

3) Methods:
Methodology is clearly stated as well as the hypotheses and research questions. As showed in the introduction, the research method is deductive and combines qualitative and quantitative elements. Author uses Junio and Mahnken´s work for considering practices of scenarios and make a benefit

for the basis of his thesis. Scenario analyses seems a good choice for case study of Argentina and Brazil (as a potential regional hegemon) and the dilemma of balancing process.

4) Literature:
Mr. Iglesias quotes very extensive, relevant and recent literature which shows that the
author has a profound knowledge of the literature, stats, data, documents, internet resources concerning the topic.

5) Manuscript form:
Technical structure of the text is transparent: it starts with theoretical part, where student prove his attempts to in-depth description, theoretical deliberation and analysis of the topic and present the methodology and structure that will be used. Topic itself is divided into five core chapters. The division in chapters is logical, all the chapters are divided into paragraphs in a correct manner. The argumentation is structured correctly and really easy to follow, so the thesis fulfills all the criteria set to M.A. program according to the standards of the Institute of Political Science. Profitable supplements of the text are figures and tables that perfectly demonstrate the analyzed data.

DATE OF EVALUATION: June 17, 2016

Referee Signature