

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

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Petra Ouředníková**

Název práce: **Impact of the National Ocean Policy in the United States**

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

Jana Sehnálková

**1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE** (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle):

In her thesis, Petra Ouředníková examines a new initiative by the Obama Administration, the so-called National Ocean Policy. In 2010, President Obama established the first comprehensive national ocean policy and initiated creation of the National Ocean Council with the purpose of ensuring implementation of new policy on ocean. The goal of the thesis is to analyze whether “Democrats would support the policy, since they embrace policies concerning the environment issues and the policy comes from their administration. On the other hand, it can be assumed that Republicans could oppose this policy as they oppose any expansion of the federal bureaucracy and the possibility of new regulations” (p. 5). At the same time, the author’s goal is to analyze “the opinion of policy’s establishment and atmosphere, which it created” (p. 6).

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

The author has selected an important contemporary issue, which has been announced only recently. The work is well-organized, the chapters are arranged in logical manner. However, reading the thesis is rather difficult as the author uses complicated sentences, reflecting the bureaucratic nature of documents she works with. The problem of the thesis is that it mainly describes policy goals which are usually formulated very broadly. Therefore, the work is rather descriptive in its nature. It is nevertheless true that an analysis of the actual implementation of Obama’s ocean policy would be difficult at this point, as only short period of time passed since the policy was announced and its major goals remain mostly on paper.

The author aims to analyze the discussion about Obama’s policy by using content analysis, through which she wants to demonstrate “possible relationships between the opinions and the people’s social status or political inclination and group’s agendas” (p. 7). The problem is that given the relatively simple hypothesis, the political inclination and agenda can be reckoned even before the analysis: Republicans, businesses, and business associations object to the policy due to the belief that it will introduce more regulation and will be detrimental to economic interests. Democrats and members of the Administration obviously provide support for the initiative, seeing it as an important step to environmental protection, protection of the ocean resources, and improving the efficiency of ocean usage. While it is great that the author uses a methodological framework, in the actual analysis, it is not entirely clear how she arrived at the selection of the key words she then subjects to evaluation.

Given the relatively recent announcement of the general goals of the policy, the author uses primarily government documents.

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

The thesis is well-written, albeit the author uses rather bureaucratic (sometimes even lofty) form of expression, which reflects the fact that she works mostly with policy statements. The language is generally fine, although there are a few typos and mistakes in using the definite and indefinite articles. The footnotes follow the norm.

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

Petra's thesis provides a good description of this groundbreaking initiative of the Obama Administration and identification of key interest groups involved in the debate about this new policy. However, the answer to the hypothesis is predictable and I believe the author should have selected a more in-depth research question. It is commendable that the author makes an effort to apply methodological framework, however, it seems that the selection of the key terms is rather arbitrary. At the same time, while establishing the goal of researching the differences between the Republicans and the Democrats in their approach towards the ocean policy, the author then works with position of businesses, business associations, and interest groups where the ideological affiliation may be difficult to prove, unless we e.g. analyze their campaign contributions.

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

I believe that the issues with the hypothesis and methodology could have been avoided if there was more time to discuss the direction of the thesis.

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

Can you provide concrete examples of how the policy implemented so far? Has the Obama Administration linked the National Ocean Policy to global environmental push for better ocean protection?

Can you explain how you selected the key terms for the content analysis?

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

The thesis fulfills all the requirements for Master's thesis and is therefore recommended for defense with grade **VERY GOOD TO GOOD**, depending on the defense.

Datum: June 13, 2016

Podpis: Jana Sehnálková

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.