

**Posudek na závěrečnou magisterskou práci Nelleke Meerkerk (IEPS) „Vztah mezi
Adalet ve Kalkinma Partisi v Turecku a Milli Görüş v Nizozemí“**

**Review of the final thesis of Nelleke Merkerk (IEPS) “Relation between Adelet ve
Kalkinma Partisi in Turkey and the Milli Görüş in the Netherlands“**

Nelleke Meerkerk has chosen a topic of great concern to many European countries in recent years. In her final thesis she is trying to find and characterize the relation between the most prominent Turkish religious and cultural organization in the Netherlands and the Islamists in Turkey. She is doing so by taking into consideration the whole complexity of the problem of Muslim immigration to Europe, researching various documents and finding answers directly where the questions arise. Because the issue at stake is so very difficult to tackle I think Nelleke has done the right decision to narrow her focus on the Netherlands – it gave her not only better access to the sources but a unique insight she could employ as a resident of the country. The fact that she was writing her thesis in completely different environment offered her greater objectivity, which she has used up the most.

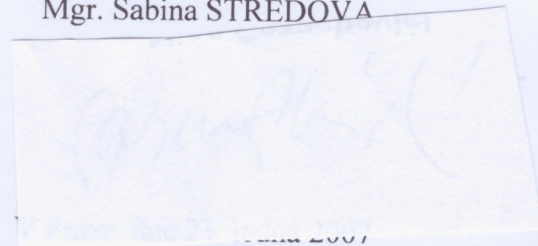
Nelleke has very clear and logic way of approaching the topic she has chosen. Firstly she examines the character of the Turkish political system and culture, proving that the original heritage of Attatürk is no longer so fervently followed and that we witness growing Islamic sentiment in Turkey. Her argumentation that the ruling party in the country can be described as Islamist is convincing. Nelleke continues with describing the second part of the equation by introducing the issue of Turkish immigration to the Netherlands. She keeps being brief and yet telling while discussing the nature of the Turkish settlement in the country, problems the immigrants face and the social implications it brings. Nelleke well argues that the integration of the Turkish migrants to the Dutch society has its failures and is definitely not smooth. In the next chapter she is trying to connect her findings and succeeds, in my opinion, to point at significant advantageous relation between the Turks in “diaspora” and the Islamists in Turkey, the political force that has been marginalized in the country for very long time. In the end of her thesis, Nelleke not only summarizes her findings but offers a very interesting opening for future research, when she thinks of possibility of growing Muslim immigrant political involvement in the host country(ies).

I find the thesis of Nelleke Meerkerk very interesting and appealing. I hold for certain that given the complexity of its topic, the scope of available materials and the abilities of the author, it is almost impossible to bring absolutely conclusive evidence of the nature of the

relation between Turkish Islamists represented by the AKP and the Milli Görüş. For the purpose of the work I think that Nelleke has studied quality and heterogeneous sources and that she has offered innovative conclusions while employing good amount of logic. Although she sometimes keeps repeating certain arguments and opens topics that could have been avoided for the simplicity of the writing, she has mastered the resources and their compilation well. I could see the English being polished little bit more (there are unnecessary grammatical mistakes for example) but I see as more important that Nelleke has very refreshing, almost journalistic style of writing that is very appealing to the reader. I can further conclude that Nelleke has fulfilled all academic requirements regarding the final thesis and I especially appreciate the variety of the sources she has studied – not only books and articles, but also personal interviews and translations of the Turkish websites.

Given the above stated review of her work, I recommend the final thesis of Nelleke Meerkerk for defence and propose it to be evaluated by the mark “Excellent” (výborný).

Mgr. Sabina STŘEDOVÁ

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Sabina Středová'. The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature, there is some faint, illegible text, possibly a date or reference number.