



MASTER THESIS EVALUATION PROTOCOL

(Opponents review)

Student: **Leandra Matilde Paulino Rosario**

Thesis title: **“The U.S.-Mexican Counter Drug-Drug Security Cooperation: The Merida Initiative a Possible Solution?”**

Opponent: Mgr. Petr Anděl, Ph.D.

This thesis presents an analysis of the US influence on the escalation of the fight against illicit drugs production and drug trafficking from Mexico to the U.S. during the Bush and Obama administrations. The Merida Initiative is their biggest counter-drug assistance program. From Mexican part, the administrative of former president Felipe Calderón as well as the administrative of Enrique Peña Nieto would be responsible for the mutual cooperation.

The student poses several logical research questions:

- Is the Merida Initiative an effective policy concerning U.S. domestic security and drug traffic interest?
- Is the Merida Initiative an effective policy to reduce violence and drug traffic from Mexico to the United States?
- How is the U.S. measuring the effectiveness of the Merida Initiative?
- Is Mexico meeting the human rights conditions placed on the Merida Initiative?
- What is the prospect for the continuation of the Merida Initiative?

The structure of this MA thesis is mature, logical as well as functional. The student is using well rounded correct expressions, the number of grammatical mistakes or wrong formulations does not exceed the level common to MA students in general.

Formally, the student uses appropriate number of resources, many of them of high quality and academic relevance. Used number of electronic resources is also high, but those are used wisely and responsibly. The student proved she is well aware of methodological limits of her work and proved, she approached electronic resources critically to find at least some information related to drug trafficking organizations, cartels and organized crime. This material is hard to access and electronic resources filled this gap, at least partially.



The main idea of this MA thesis suggests the Merida initiative was successful; however it is not realistic to expect it would decrease activities of cartels immediately. It is so due to the extent their power. It has grown and penetrated the society as well as authorities on the Mexican part of border.

Having clear research questions and hypothesis, the student answered her questions and by doing this she reached all declared goals of her thesis. More than that, the student proved she is well aware of complexity of the U.S.-Mexican mutual relations. They are influenced heavily by NAFTA, illegal migration, illegal drug trafficking and security threats posed by the enormous extent of organized crime atrocities along the Mexican side of the border.

This thesis is composed logically; the author collected a large amount of academic as well as other relevant sources to support her arguments. Her judgments, based upon collected academic knowledge, are logical and sound.

During the defense, the author should present her perspective on continuation of the described cooperation under the impact of Donald Trump's presidency.

In all aspects, this thesis reached its declared goals fully. It also met all required criteria and can be defended in front of the examination committee.

I do suggest an EXCELLENT or VERY GOOD mark.

Date: 06.09.2017

Signature: