

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Role of Brazil in Latin American Integration Processes</b>
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	<b>Jelena Kazakova</b>
<b>Referee (<i>incl. titles</i>):</b>	<b>PhDr. Malvína Krausz Hladká, Ph.D.</b>

**Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).**

### **1) Theoretical background:**

Understanding complexity of presented case study analysis of Brazil and its role in Latin American integration processes is an important and very interesting topic to analyse. Current position of Brazil that became a strong engine of regional integration process and initiated formation of numerous economical and political blocks during last decades is a theme for many political scientist, from well known research centers who focus on key factors. The effort of author Jelena Kazakova, in this context, seems very beneficial and up to date. And this is the reason why presented text fulfills the basic criteria – the proper relevancy for the research - from methodological, theoretical and political perspectives.

Author has formulated the research question and hypothesis clearly and they were analyzed well and critically. Her research has established evidence for the theoretical explanation of Brazilian strategy in Latin America based on the concept of consensual hegemony with the main motive: to promote Brasil's geopolitical aspirations.

### **2) Contribution:**

The paper provides comprehensive analysis of Brazil in selected regional projects.

### **3) Methods:**

The author has chosen a relevant methodology using both qualitative and quantitative methods in order to verify declared hypotheses.

### **4) Literature:**

She has demonstrated knowledge of the research field and the conclusions of her MA thesis have showed author's ability to work with all kind of informative sources and literature but mainly his proficiency in this topic.

### **5) Manuscript form:**

The paper meets all formal criteria (length, structure, value added). Additional proofreading would be beneficial as minor typos appear in the paper

**Box for the thesis supervisor only.** Please characterize the progress in the working out of thesis (e.g. steady and gradual versus discontinuous and abrupt) and the level (intensity) of communication/cooperation with the author: steady

Suggested questions for the defence are:

„... ..“

I recommend the thesis for final defence. I recommend the following grade: **“A”**.

**SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20 points)</i>	20
<i>Contribution (max. 20 points)</i>	20
<i>Methods (max. 20 points)</i>	19
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	17
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20 points)</i>	18
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)</b>	<b>A</b>

**DATE OF EVALUATION: 1.2.2018**

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**Referee Signature**

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	<b>A</b>	= outstanding (high honour)
81 – 90	<b>B</b>	= superior (honour)
71 – 80	<b>C</b>	= good
61 – 70	<b>D</b>	= satisfactory
51 – 60	<b>E</b>	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	<b>F</b>	= failing is recommended