

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

GPS – Geopolitical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	Possible Consequences in Georgian-Russian Relations in case Georgia Receives the Membership Action Plan
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	<b>Tamar Demurishvili</b>
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	<b>PhDr. Michael Romancov, Ph.D.</b>

**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):

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	18
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)</b>	<b>B</b>

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

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

There is probably no more difficult task in social sciences than to try to predict the future behavior of the selected actors. The relationship between Russia and NATO is an extremely important and urgent topic, and given Russia's inclination to geopolitics, it is necessary to try to grasp the theme from this perspective. Mackinder and Heartland theory is a good starting point.

#### **2) Contribution:**

Thesis strives to answer three main research questions: 1. Why NATO's enlargement to South Caucasus is important for European security architecture? 2. How Georgia's possible NATO membership will affect political and military relations between Georgia and Russia. 3. Why is it important to defend Georgia in period between MAP granting and possible actual accession? Selected questions the author examines carefully and logically. The way of argumentation is comprehensible. I appreciate that the text deals with new concepts such as Greater Central Europe or Central Eurasia. On the other hand, NATO is perceived as a single player in the text, but it is obvious that NATO is heterogeneous. If not in main text of the thesis, in conclusions the author should also take into account other possible factors, such as Turkey.

#### **3) Methods:**

The author decided to use the method of counterfactual reasoning for her thesis, which seems to be appropriate and proportionate to the topic.

#### **4) Literature:**

The work is based on a sufficient number of literature and other relevant information sources.

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

The text is processed very carefully, and the author's speech is comprehensible. The resources used have been properly quoted and the work therefore fully complies with the standards applied to texts of this type.

**DATE OF EVALUATION:**

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***Referee Signature***

**The referee should give comments to the following requirements:**

**1) THEORETICAL BACKGROUND:** Can you recognize that the thesis was guided by some **theoretical fundamentals** relevant for this thesis topic? Were some important theoretical concepts omitted? Was the theory used in the thesis consistently incorporated with the topic and hypotheses tested?

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                              10                              0                      points

**2) CONTRIBUTION:** Evaluate if the author presents **original ideas** on the topic and aims at demonstrating **critical thinking** and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and relevant empirical material. Is there a distinct **value added** of the thesis (relative to knowledge of a university-educated person interested in given topic)? Did the author explain **why** the observed phenomena occurred? Were the policy implications well founded?

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                              10                              0                      points

**3) METHODS:** Are the **hypotheses** for this study clearly stated, allowing their further verification and testing? Are the theoretical explanations, empirical material and **analytical tools** used in the thesis relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the aspiration level of the study? Is the thesis **topic comprehensively analyzed** and does the thesis not make trivial or irrelevant detours off the main body stated in the thesis proposal? More than 10 points signal an exceptional work, **which requires your explanation "why" it is so**.

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                              10                              0                      points

**4) LITERATURE REVIEW:** The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and **command of recent literature**. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way and disposes with a representative bibliography. (Remark: references to Wikipedia, websites and newspaper articles are a sign of **poor research**). If they dominate you cannot give more than 8 points. References to books published by prestigious publishers and articles in renowned journals give much better impression.

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                              10                              0                      points

**5) MANUSCRIPT FORM:** The thesis is **clear and well structured**. The author uses appropriate language and style, including academic **format** for quotations, graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables, is easily readable and **stimulates thinking**.

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                              10                              0                      points

**Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:**

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Czech grading
91 – 100	<b>A</b>	= excellent
81 - 90	<b>B</b>	= good
71 – 80	<b>C</b>	= satisfactory
61 - 70	<b>D</b>	= satisfactory
51 - 60	<b>E</b>	
0	<b>F</b>	= fail (not recommended for defence)