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Ústav světových dějin FFUK

### Master's Thesis Review

Student's name and surname: Davi Costa da Silva

Title of the thesis: The Brazilian Agrarian-industrial Towns of Jan Antonín Baťa (1941 – 1965): Transnational Crossings in Urban Planning

Reviewer's name and surname: Markéta Křížová

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**1. Heuristic** (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

1.1 Evaluation of the selection of literature and sources	1
1.2 Complexity of used sources from the perspective of the state of the art	1

The choice of the topic of the MA thesis was done as a result of a long-term interest of the author. As a result, he proves to be well acquainted with the general context and relevant secondary literature (and here should be praised not only his ability to study in his native Portuguese, in English and French, but also in Czech). But the thesis relies primarily on published and archival sources, some of them rare, so far unknown and unused by historians.

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**2. Research problem and its solution** (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

2.1 Choice of the formulation of the research issue respects the task given to the student	1
2.2 The relevance of the goal from the perspective of research area methodology	1

The research question was formulated by the student independently. It was explicitly formulated, and is very relevant with respect to the current developments in the field of urban history; reacts well to the modern historiographical trends (transnational history, entangled



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history). The analysis brought results that could be of use for other researchers interested in the problems of urban history as well as the history of ideas.

**3. Thesis' structure evaluation** (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

3.1 Is the structure of the thesis logical?	1
3.2 Does the thesis' structure work along the methodology and methods declared in the introduction	1

The structure of the thesis is logical and concise; the author resisted the tempting for pursuing diverging paths and partial problems. The structure works along the methodology.

**4. Quality of analysis and interpretation** (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

4.1 Analysis of sources and literature	1
4.2 Interpretation of sources and literature in their interaction	1

The sources were adequately presented in the introduction, the secondary literature carefully evaluated. All the sources used are precisely quoted in passing and in the final bibliography.

**5. Quality of the text** (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged to formulate critical points)

5.1 Style and grammar	1
5.2 Use of terminology	1

The terms are defined and used correctly. The text is comprehensible, written in acceptable academic English, even though one more proofreading would make possible the correction of minor mistakes and orthographical errors.



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**6. Synthetic evaluation (minimum 500 characters):**

The text is clearly a product of consistent, prolonged work. There is a clear theoretical framework set at the beginning that then dictated the tone for the whole text. The author resisted the temptation to get enmeshed in biographical details of the main protagonist, even though his fascination with the complex personality of Jan Antonín Baťa is clear. But he was able to discipline it and concentrate on the phenomenon of the “Baťa town” and the broad context of its origin and development, both with respect to the architectural avant-garde movement and social-reform efforts on both sides of the Atlantic, the specific socio-economic, political and cultural developments in the Czech lands and equally specific situation in Brazil in the period under study. Also, the pictorial annexes (plans, sketches and photographs) are not serving just as illustration, but are exploited in the analysis. The thesis represents a real scholarly contribution to the existing corpus of urban and intellectual history in the Atlantic region in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, albeit necessarily limited in scope, not just an exercise in historiographical technique commonly expected from the M.A. thesis. It thus gives great promises for the future, should Davi da Silva opt for a further academic career.

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**7. Questions and comments which should the candidate answer and discuss during the defense:**

1. How unique were the Brazilian Baťa towns in comparison to other outposts of the company on the South American continent (or in Africa or Asia)?
2. Does anywhere in Baťa’s visions for the American continent appear the concept of race?

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**Suggested grade:** 1 (výborně in Czech, 5 in Hungarian scale)

**Date:** June 8, 2018

**Signature:**