

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

Title of the thesis:	Intermarium concept in contemporary geopolitics
Author of the thesis:	Danylo Stonis
Referee (incl. titles):	PhDr. Mgr. Jakub Landovský, Ph.D.

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):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	92
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	A

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

1) Theoretical background:

The submitted thesis is rooted in the realist view of the international relations. Author does follow this framework coherently and clearly.

2) Contribution:

This thesis contributes to understanding of an ambitious and vital political format relevant from both the Czech national policy-making and regional political framework. Author's findings might help to formulate and justify political decisions of the countries like the Czech Republic and also to better understand the motives of world-power politics in a potential shatter-belt dividing Eastern and Western spheres of influence. Intermarium puts together naturally occurring formats like V4 and B3 into a rather into a higher layer of regional cooperation which doesn't occur naturally. Access to a sea via the international cooperation is of geostrategic interest of landlocked countries. Czech Republic is, in this sense, in the heart of the region being a departing point of three leading waterways for the three seas, which makes the concept relevant for the country.

3) Methods:

Methodology of the proposed thesis dwells on comparative method rooted in dr. van Evera's work. Two research questions are addressed into full extent and the comparative method is utilized in very coherent and thoughtful manner. To depict such a wide range of regional approaches in the geopolitically active region such as CE and the Balkans, author compares respective policies towards the world powers. Historically it is Russia and in the more recent period the United States and NATO.

4) Literature:

The author consults a high number of relevant sources. The bibliography is fully suited for a diploma thesis format.

5) Manuscript form:

The paper is written in a clear and concise English. Writing skills of the author benefit the overall intelligibility of the text. Work is well structured and all formal requirements are met.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 12. 6. 2019

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	A	= excellent
81 - 90	B	= good
71 – 80	C	= satisfactory
61 - 70	D	= satisfactory
51 - 60	E	
0	F	= fail (not recommended for defence)