

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Mastering Space by New Means of Power Politics: Democratization</b>
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	<b>Ksenia Galtsova</b>
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	<b>Martin Riegl</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>	20
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	16
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

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

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

The theoretical part of the paper is strong. Author has framed her research within theories and concepts of Nye's hard, soft, and smart power, Buzan's security complex, and also democratic peace theory. Ksenia shows a strong orientation in theories and what is more important is able to logically and systematically apply them throughout the thesis. This allows Ksenia to successfully answer the questions she asked in the introduction: Why do external players engage in promotion of democracy abroad, what's the driving force and type of approach (including paradiplomacy tools) of such external involvement – does it help them to pursue their own geopolitical goals, is it possible to draw a comparison between promotion of democracy and communism during the Cold War?

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

The author has chosen a difficult but also immensely appealing topic of democracy promotion through the lenses of geopolitical strategies of the US, EU. Comparative analysis of two largely different geopolitical agents, using different means to achieve their desired goals, having different priorities and ambitions provides has definitely strong added value for readers. I just have few comments on statements where I can not agree with Ksenia:

- a) *Democracies are proven to be economically and politically successful (p. 27)* - is a bit too straightforward, b) *the EU focuses on its close neighbors, unlike the United States (46)* – the wording of the European Global Strategy (2016) says something different. Lastly Ksenia reverses to the EU on several occasions as the state, which I disagree with. Such statement can also lead to misunderstanding of lack of EU's ambitions in foreign policy, security, and defence, simply because it does not have a character of federation and has to always seek a consensus among its members, c) *The United States' goal is to maintain hegemony by preserving unipolarity (121)* – this is a bit chicken and egg problem, isn't rather a tool enables the US to promote/secure her vital interests (freedom of trade, individual trade) worldwide? But I leave this to a discussion.

### **3) Methods:**

Methodology is clearly explained and based on qualitative analysis and comparison of geopolitical interests and strategies of the US, the EU, and the USSR, respectively if promotion of democracy/communism helps the above mentioned actors to achieve their goals through export of their ideology (system of governance).

### **4) Literature:**

Ksenia has shown not only her ability to orient herself in an avalanche of existing body of monographs, articles, or primary documents but also more importantly to critically analyze and apply them on empirical part of the paper/selected case studies, which is not always the case. Relevant works of authors such as Nye, Agnew, Brzezinski, Fukuyama, Huntington, Corbridge, Buzan, Waever are covered. Separate list of electronic sources would allow easier orientation of the reader in bibliography, also where article is cited, reference to DOI or Jstor's website is not necessary.

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

The paper meets all formal criteria and fully satisfies requirements of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

***DATE OF EVALUATION: June 18, 2020***

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***Referee Signature***