

## Review

### *„Egyptian foreign policy and the "Arab spring": A Case study of Egyptian policy before and after Arab Spring toward Turkey and Palestine"*

Abderahman Salaheldin has chosen for his doctoral thesis a highly relevant topic, aimed at the issue of Egyptian foreign policy during the Arab Spring between January 2011 and June 2013, while focusing on the relations with Turkey and Palestine. The topic is original, has not been analyzed before, and is undergirded by exclusive sources. Thanks to the current heightened interest in the Middle East region, the analysis of this topic is very important and needed. Thanks to the way the dissertation is written, we can state that the choice of the topic was very correct.

Mr. Salaheldin has attempted to give a comprehensive overview of the matter in question. The length of the thesis is standard (160 norm-pages), the structure is defined by a clear concept of the topic, reflecting in the partition of the chapters and the overall balanced and proportional nature of the individual parts. The technical part of the writing is at a very high level of quality. The author sticks to the main line of argumentation throughout. The thesis can be categorized among the wider universe of analysis of current Egyptian history and has fulfilled its goal as stated.

In the Introduction, the author stuck to all the necessary parts: defined a goal of the thesis, outlined methodological approaches and explained the structure of the work. He showed the state of research of the topic so far and analyzed the primary and secondary sources he used. The heuristic basis for the dissertation is rich and representative. The sources used are extensive, not widely available, with the author using his own diplomatic experiences in securing them.

Significant attention is given to methodology in Chapters 1 and 2. the author uses Neoclassical Realism, methodically sticks to a topical and partially chronological approach. As for the content of the work, I do not have any major issues with it. Chapter 3 characterizes the main aspects of the political developments in Egypt during the Arab Spring, periodized in this case as between the January 2011 Mubarak abdication and the overthrow of Morsi in June 2013. chapter 4, conceived as a case study, analyzes in detail approaches of Egyptian foreign policy towards Turkey, which was supposed to largely serve as a template for Morsi's Party of Freedom and Justice. Chapter 5, which is also a case study, is devoted to Egyptian foreign policy towards Palestine and Israel. Chapter 6 is the Conclusion, where there is a detailed list of recommendations for future practice and research.

I can conclude that A. Salaheldin has managed to show the skill of conducting independent research, mastered the necessary techniques, methods and methodologies proper for a dissertation of this kind. The work presented contains new knowledge that can be further utilized for developments in the science of studying contemporary Middle Eastern history. The author has a grasp of the scientific method, his theoretical knowledge is adequate, and thus fulfills the requirements for attaining the title of PhD.

Based on these reasons, I recommend the doctoral dissertation of Abderahman Salaheldin for the defense before the committee.

In Prague,

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