

# MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

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

<b>Thesis title:</b>	Correlation between U.S. - China Hegemonic Competition and The Deployment of THAAD on the Korean Peninsula
<b>Name of Student:</b>	Kim Byung Ju
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	Jakub Landovský
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	September 5, 2021

The thesis has been checked by anti-plagiarism software.

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

## **1) Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions):**

Mr. Kim Byung Ju delivered excellent masters thesis with findings that surpasses the initial scope of work. I author ask himself question about reasons for and consequences of placement of US ballistic and air missile defense system in South Korea. In the subsequent analysis he sees this move on the regional *Wei chi* board in broader framework of Sino-American competition for regional hegemony. The conclusion of this masters thesis, which is that THAAD deployment is not too confined to addressing dangers posed by DPRK to ROK on the Korean Peninsula, but very relevant and influential in quest for regional hegemony between the world great powers.

## **2) Theoretical and methodological framework:**

Author uses power transition and power balance approach on the background of liberal and realist debate. Most influence from the methodological and theoretical is traceable to Kenneth Organski. I especially liked the tables comparing US and Chinese advantages in military and non military areas. The work does not fall into trap of comparing only technical and military categories and takes into account regime stability and satisfaction/dissatisfaction of the population of the contestants.

## **3) Sources and literature:**

Main advantage for me was inclusion of security and IR expert opinions from the non western discours. Regional sources include Tae-Hyung Kim, Woo-Sang Kim, Jung-Yeop, Kyo-Dok, Soo-Hyung Lee, Kun-Young Park and many others. Western seminal authors such as Kenneth Waltz are also included. Sources are up to date and to mention one unnecessary citation it would be

Wikipedia for THAAD as system. There will be a better and deeper technical study for this who want to educate themselves on the system. This is not a mistake and author perfectly understands the main characteristics and possible advantages of the THAAD system, that include advance radar able to detect launches deep in the Chinese territory.

**4) Manuscript form and structure:**

Solid work in form and chosen structure supports the argument well. Not very many “typos” but to pick one, that stands out the author change the name of general Curtis Scaparotti to Cutis Scaparroti on page 15. I know general Scaparotti well and “cute” is not the word i would associate with his demeanor or visage.

**5) Quality of presentation**

Overall presentation of the manuscript is high quality including tables. Personally i would enjoy more maps, but that does not affect my evaluation.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	38
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	35
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	9
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	14
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)</b>	

**Suggested questions for the defense are: Chinese agenda and objectives for the regional hegemony is well establish. What is the use objective and desired regional outcome of the current Sino-US strategic competition?**

**I (do not) recommend the thesis for final defense.**



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**Referee Signature**

*Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:*

TOTAL	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	<b>A</b>	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	<b>B</b>	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	<b>C</b>	= good
61 – 70	<b>D</b>	= satisfactory
51 – 60	<b>E</b>	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	<b>F</b>	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.