

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	The Trade Economic Relationship And Political Position Between America And China
Author of the thesis:	Yuantong Diao
Referee (incl. titles):	Ing. Jan Bejtkovský, Ph.D.

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

1) Theoretical background:

The author has chosen a very broad topic for the master thesis. The research question is stated as follows (the page is not numbered for better reference): *“Learning to describe the economic interdependence between China and the United States through economic interdependence theory, from China's accession to the WTO to the 2008 US financial crisis, the period extend their economic interdependence by 2015. It is further divided into quantitative sensitivity indicators and qualitative vulnerability indicators to analyze the degree of changes in trade relations. Finally, empirical analysis to illustrate which factors are important factors in Sino-US trade relations. On the other hand, although economic dependence has brought enormous benefits to both countries, in order to protect national sovereignty, countries implement policy constraints.”* Unfortunately, even after repeated reading of the research question, I am unable to comprehend what actually is the aim of the thesis. Furthermore, no exact time frame is defined – is it focused only on 2001 to 2008 or all the way to 2015? The actual analysis from page 15 on is for years 1997 to 2016 to make it more unclear. This problem plus the fact that the author has chosen a very broad topic for the master thesis influences the thesis significantly in a negative way.

As for the theoretical background, I find significant inconsistencies and simplifications bordering with errors, such as:

Page 1 – China is **not** no. 1 foreign holder of US sovereign debt.

Page 4 – Many authors dispute the assumption that China exports mainly labour-intensive products as early as 2001, but the author takes no notice of this. This is a problem throughout the thesis.

Page 8 – Stating the more or less obvious: *“Furthermore, economic interdependence ties countries more interdependent”*

While the empirical analysis is related to the theoretical background, the individual parts of the thesis are not connected together by a clearly defined structure and theoretical foundation that would enable the reader to easily understand what is the purpose of the individual chapters of the thesis in relation to the aim of the thesis or stated research question (that is not defined clearly).

The ability of a reader to fully understand the meaning of the thesis is further worsened by the language used.

2) Contribution:

Given the points mentioned above, especially the unclear language construction of the thesis, the contribution of the thesis is limited. This is very unfortunate, as the author has chosen a very interesting and important topic to research. The thesis is very anti-US, which can probably be attributed to the nationality of the author, but such factors should not influence the academic paper and scientific analysis. The author fails to mention many facts that might be “less positive” to China,

such as IP problems, copying, Chinese domestic protectionism and subsidies violating the WTO treaties etc. which further reduces the contribution of the thesis.

3) Methods:

Given the unclear definition of research question or aim of the thesis, it is difficult to fully assess the extent to which the research question has been answered. However, author conducted a good statistical analysis and clearly defined all the variables, hypotheses and the statistical analysis process.

4) Literature:

The literature indicated at the end of the thesis is abundant but used somewhat arbitrarily in the course of the thesis.

5) Manuscript form:

As mentioned already above, the language is probably the biggest problem of the thesis. Many sentences are difficult to comprehend and with many grammatical errors. Because of this, it is difficult to fully understand and review the thesis.

Box for the thesis supervisor only. Please characterize the progress in the working out of thesis (e.g. steady and gradual versus discontinuous and abrupt) and the level (intensity) of communication/cooperation with the author:

...

Suggested questions for the defence are:

- 1) Define the aims and research question of the thesis clearly. Explain what you want to show by writing the thesis. What was the reason for choosing the interdependence theory and no other theory?
- 2) How is China violating its WTO obligations?
- 3) How has the US-China economic relation changed after 2008?

I recommend the thesis for final defence if the author can properly answer the questions below. I recommend the following grade: "E."

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	8
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	8
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	15
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	12
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	8
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	51
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	E

DATE OF EVALUATION: .02.09.2021

Bejkovský
Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Level of performance
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honour)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honour)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass
50 – 0	F	= failure. Thesis is then not recommended for defence.