

Opponent's review

for Master thesis of *Arthem Akhmatulin: Russia's role in the development of the 21st century gas sector: economic and geopolitical perspective*

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Submitted thesis deals with relevant and important issue of currently ongoing energy security debate. Author's ambition was to focus on contemporary trends in the global gas sector by highlighting major milestones in the relationship between energy 'producer' and 'consumer' states, and assessing eventual development of the gas sector with a special emphasis on Transnational Corporations. In general his attempt could be evaluated as successful one.

Author's main hypothesis was: "*Russia, being one of the major exporters of natural gas, uses its energy capabilities to hold a political influence over decisions made in the global community*", which was demonstrated fairly.

Chapter four, in which SWOT analysis of the Russian gas sector was elaborated in order to promote a greater understanding of recent trends in the country's gas market, analyze its impact on the global gas industry, and provide an assessment for the future of the country's energy sector, is definitely best part of his work.

Because submitted these corresponds to academic demands as well as to formal demands of these texts, I can recommend it for Theses defense and I propose excellent evaluation.

Prague, January 27, 2011

Michael Romancov, Ph.D.