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Master's Thesis Assessment

AUTHOR: Jakub HONZÍK

TITLE OF THE THESIS: US AND RUSSIA: RESETTING RELATIONS.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FROM GEOPOLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

ASSESSED BY: Markéta Žídková (Dept. of Politics and European Studies, Palacky University)

ASSESSMENT TYPE: Supervisor

ASSESSMENT OF THE THESIS CONTENT

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES MARK

Relevancy of the topic in relation to the current scientific knowledge: 1

Originality of the thesis, contribution to the science subject field: 1

Integrity and scale of sources and literature relevant to the subject study: 1

Ability for critical appraisal of the sources: 1

Standards of working with sources: 1

Methodology and its relevancy to the subject study and thesis goals: 2

Logic of the thesis structure: 1

Ability to argue, cohesion and coherence of the argument: 1

Terminology in the relevant field: 1

Adhesion to the citation norm: 1-2

Language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis: 1

COMMENTARY:

The Thesis' main aim is to provide analysis of the mutual relations and geopolitical strategies of the United States and the Russian Federation. In particular, the list of goals includes the description of main geopolitical objectives of these two countries; identification of geopolitical strategies they have chosen; analysis of development of bi-lateral relations between the US and Russia during the era of Bush-Putin presidencies; analysis of impact of the "reset" in relations proclaimed during the Obama-Medvedev presidencies (Introduction, p. 1). In addition to that, Jakub Honzík attempts to evaluate the potential cooperation of these two powers (chapter 4.3: "Possible future developments in mutual relations", pp. 74-78). Jakub Honzík aimed to verify the following hypothesis (p. 2): *US and Russia have different geopolitical objectives which often contravene each other and will therefore not be able to achieve any significant and durable improvement in bi-lateral relations.*

The structure of the Thesis is without major problems. Jakub Honzík used relevant literature, his research is based on text of well-known authors such as B. Lo, L. Shevtsova, A. Kuchins, K.

Barysh, R. Jervis and others. He cites and correctly evaluates works by controversial authors such as A. Dugin.

As his supervisor, I appreciate his ability to work independently and come with interesting ideas. It must be appreciated that Jakub Honzík actually introduced foundations of foreign policies and geopolitical interests of two powers, the US and RF (chapters 2 and 3). The last chapter centers on the author's decent analysis of the US-RF mutual relations as well as potential controversial issues of the so called "reset period".

The above commentary enables me to conclude that the text is fully acceptable as Master thesis - with grade 1 (excellent).

Markéta Žídková
Olomouc, June 23 2012