

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>The Analysis of the Kyrgyzstan Revolution in April 2010.</b>
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	<b>Asia Sherniazova</b>
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	<b>Mgr.Martin Riegl, PhD.</b>

**Remark:** It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)</b>	<b>1</b>

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

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

#### **1) Theoretical background:**

Mrs. Sherniazova based her research on following hypotheses – turmoil is rooted in geopolitical position and significance of the country, mass uprising was caused by criminal activities (corruption, nepotism) of the regime. The author explicitly uses Mobilization Theory, Theory of groups and theory of organizations and incentive systems. Also notions like mass mobilization, revolution and others are defined.

#### **2) Contribution:**

The author has chosen an interesting and unusual topic, the analysis of the 2010 revolution in Kyrgyzstan. As Mrs. Sherniazova notes it has already been second overthrow of the government since 1991 independence, 2005 revolution being the first change. This is a bit unique situation within the framework of the Central Asia region, which is undoubtedly of high geopolitical significance. Moreover the significance of the regions is being on rise as the result of Russian-Chinese competition on the area.

The author provides objective analysis of the issues, she based her research on study of socio-economic as well as political circumstances which led to mass mobilization in 2010 and fall of the government respectively.

#### **3) Methods:**

Authors used qualitative data collections tools, analysis of primary documents and interviews are used throughout the thesis. However I have not found any interviews conducted in the list of sources. But the authors has showed good methodological skills in her thesis.

#### **4) Literature:**

The author managed to collect sufficient amount of resources of all kinds (monographs, journals, documents, internet sources) and proves her ability of independent research. All analyzed sources are undoubtedly relevant to the thesis topic.

**5) Manuscript form:**

The submitted thesis fulfills all formal criteria required by the Faculty of Social Sciences. Despite of minor shortcomings it meets the standard.

***DATE OF EVALUATION:***

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***Referee Signature***

**The referee should give comments to the following requirements:**

**1) THEORETICAL BACKGROUND:** Can you recognize that the thesis was guided by some **theoretical fundamentals** relevant for this thesis topic? Were some important theoretical concepts omitted? Was the theory used in the thesis consistently incorporated with the topic and hypotheses tested?

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                          10                          0                      points

**2) CONTRIBUTION:** Evaluate if the author presents **original ideas** on the topic and aims at demonstrating **critical thinking** and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and relevant empirical material. Is there a distinct **value added** of the thesis (relative to knowledge of a university-educated person interested in given topic)? Did the author explain **why** the observed phenomena occurred? Were the policy implications well founded?

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                          10                          0                      points

**3) METHODS:** Are the **hypotheses** for this study clearly stated, allowing their further verification and testing? Are the theoretical explanations, empirical material and **analytical tools** used in the thesis relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the aspiration level of the study? Is the thesis **topic comprehensively analyzed** and does the thesis not make trivial or irrelevant detours off the main body stated in the thesis proposal? More than 10 points signal an exceptional work, **which requires your explanation "why" it is so**.

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                          10                          0                      points

**4) LITERATURE REVIEW:** The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and **command of recent literature**. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way and disposes with a representative bibliography. (Remark: references to Wikipedia, websites and newspaper articles are a sign of **poor research**). If they dominate you cannot give more than 8 points. References to books published by prestigious publishers and articles in renowned journals give much better impression.

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                          10                          0                      points

**5) MANUSCRIPT FORM:** The thesis is **clear and well structured**. The author uses appropriate language and style, including academic **format** for quotations, graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables, is easily readable and **stimulates thinking**.

Strong                      Average                      Weak  
20                          10                          0                      points

**Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:**

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Czech grading	US grading
81 – 100	<b>1</b>	= excellent	= A
61 – 80	<b>2</b>	= good	= B
51 – 60	<b>3</b>	= satisfactory	= C
41 – 50	<b>3</b>	= satisfactory	= D
0 – 40	<b>4</b>	= fail	= not recommended for defence