

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek vedoucího)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Aneta Válková**

Název práce: **Americké mírové sbory a jejich role ve studené válce**

Vedoucí práce (u externích vedoucích uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce):

Doc.PhDr. Francis D. Raška, PhD.

1. **OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE** (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle): The goal of this B.A. dissertation is to describe and evaluate the establishment, activities, and role of the Peace Corps during the presidency of John F. Kennedy under the leadership of its first director, Sargent Shriver. The author aims to answer the question: Was the Peace Corps merely a volunteer organization or did it serve some political purpose in Kennedy's Cold War foreign policy?
2. **VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ** (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.): This work represents a case study on a distinct aspect of the Cold War, namely the Peace Corps and its role. It is an interesting topic. The structure is sound and many interesting sources are cited.
3. **FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ** (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.): The language is fine and the presentation is excellent and the footnoting is consistent throughout the dissertation.
4. **STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE** (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):
Aneta Válková has written her B.A. dissertation on the Peace Corps. She analyzes the background of the organization's creation and the role it played during the presidency of John F. Kennedy. The treatise contains an Introduction, four main chapters, and a Conclusion. In my opinion, the work is easy to read and Aneta makes some good points. In the following paragraphs, I will discuss each part of the dissertation.
In the Introduction, Aneta spells out the content of the main chapters and she points out that few Czechs have properly studied the Peace Corps. She does discuss the main sources consulted, but this does not appear under a separate heading, which is somewhat unfortunate.
Chapter 1 represents the background and history of the establishment of the Peace Corps. Indeed, Kennedy had a new concept of using young volunteers as helpers in the Third World and the mood among young people in the United States was favorable to the establishment of such a program. Aneta goes into great detail when describing how the organization was portrayed to Congress and the American people. It was a skillful public relations campaign that met with success and Congress agreed to the formation of the Peace Corps.
In Chapter 2, Aneta depicts the structure of the Peace Corps, which was divided into employees based in Washington, volunteers, and representatives in host countries. The employee base in Washington had the task of public relations (domestic), manage administrative affairs (domestically), and assure the development of sensible programs in foreign lands. The task of volunteers was to engage with locals in the given culture and overcome linguistic and cultural barriers. There was friction between the three groups and Aneta discusses this problem well. There were three main aims the Peace Corps had. The first was to enable men and women from the United States to go to interested countries and help them with their specific needs. The second was to enhance understanding of the United States among the locals in foreign countries. The third was to enhance the Americans' understanding of the inhabitants of the given country. Of course, as is the case in all organizations, the Peace Corps had its problems. Aneta points out the successes and difficulties with volunteers throughout the rest of the chapter. I commend her on a job well done.
Chapter 3 analyzes the activities of the Peace Corps in individual African countries. The countries discussed are Somalia, Tanzania, and Nigeria. Though success varied from country to country, it can be said that, despite difficulties, the Peace Corps volunteers did have a positive impact on the society they worked in.

In Chapter 4, Aneta discusses President Kennedy's foreign policy towards Africa and the Third World and the role played by the Peace Corps. She is critical in her approach and even gives an idea of what the Communist world thought about the Peace Corps. I believe her analysis is sound.

Finally, Aneta's Conclusion is well conceived. She writes that the Peace Corps was indeed a tool of Kennedy's foreign policy. The establishment of the Peace Corps also brought Kennedy great popularity at home. Sargent Shriver was able to safeguard the organization's independence and preserve its credibility. The CIA did not infiltrate the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps also limited the influence of the Soviet Union in the countries involved to a certain extent. Aneta, however, rightly points out that the effectiveness of the Peace Corps' activities was hampered by ineffective organization and preparation of the volunteers for the cultural challenges that faced them. Finally, Aneta suggests that other interesting areas of research might include the role of African Americans in the Peace Corps and the organization's activities in other developing regions.

Aneta Válková has produced a nice piece of work. Her conclusions are balanced and sound. If she performs as well in the oral defense, I recommend an **excellent** mark.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):

1. Would the Peace Corps have been better served in its first years by having a director other than Sargent Shriver?

2. Why do you think that much of Africa remains so poor despite the Peace Corps activities?

6. **DOPORUČENÍ** / **NEDOPORUČENÍ** K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA

(**výborně**, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): I recommend an **excellent** classification.

Datum: 8.6.2013

Podpis:

Pozn.: Hodnocení píše k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.