

KARLOVA UNIVERZITA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut politologických studií

Master's Thesis Assessment

AUTHOR: B.Doboš

TITLE OF THE THESIS: The New Middle Age: Theory of Irregular

ASSESSED BY: Mgr. Martin Riegl, PhD.

ASSESSMENT TYPE: Advisor

1. 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	1
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
Language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis	1-2

COMMENTARY:

The author has decided to analyze interesting and undoubtedly relevant, but theoretically exacting, topic in the field of geopolitics. The author of the thesis undertook an ambitious task, but the objectives of the thesis are straightforwardly and precisely stated at the beginning of the work. The main goal of the thesis, in author's words is to „*to test the neomedieval hypothesis that fading state, or Westphalia, system will transform itself into a system resembling the European Middle Ages with the state as only one of many relevant actors*”.

The thesis has a well defined and clear structure which flows throughout the the whole thesis. The structure also does seem to match very well the objectives of the thesis. The content is divided into eight chapters including the introduction and conclusion. From the theoretical perspective the author starts his research with classical geopolitical theories with particular focus on realism. The submitted paper provides a wide range of the New Middle Age's and Durable Chaos theories (Bull, Kaplan, Williams, Cerny, Rapley among others). In short, the analytical tools employed in this thesis are described in any detail.

The author starts the paper by defining basic concepts and definitions (institutions like a state and its basic geographic and political characteristics are described). He seems well aware of the enormity of the challenge, as he declares that he won't be in situation to deeply explain the mentioned phenomenon due to insufficient space.

In the second chapter he defines theoretical framework of the thesis which is based on the New Middle Age theory, I must appreciate that he does not succumb to cliché of the realist/neorealist approach which is so spread among the authors dealing with international relations, especially when they are trying to deal with the phenomenon of the sovereign state.

Furthemore Mr.Doboš goes to four cases studies of Somalia, Pakistan, North Korea and the European Union. Inspite of minor insufficiencies whole thesis is framed in well researched theoretical concepts of the New Middle Age Theory, using large amount of primary as well as secondary sources. Author has done impressive work with compilation of all resources.

The author of this work provides a very clear overview and deep theoretical analysis of the New Middle Age theories and applies them to four empirical case studies, Somalia, Pakistan, the European Union, North Korea and namely. To sum up the author succeeded in his attempt conceptualize the post-Westphalia system by using the New Middle Age theory. The thesis itself also fullfills all formal required critera like the minimum scope, standards of working with resources, relevancy of the topic, language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis etc. The paper demonstrates the author's ability to undestand and command the recent literature as well as classic geopolitical works.

The main strength of the thesis, namely that attempting to address a topic which has been explored by many distinguished social scientists and able to deal with the subject matter in a comprehensive and unique way. Therefore he was able to conduct independent research and accomplish original findings.

2. QUESTIONS FOR THE DEFENSE

Would be E.Luttwak's idea of „let them fight among themselves“ viable solution for countries like Somalia?

How would you explain the ability of political elites in North Korea or Zimbabwe to enforce law and order despite of the fact that both countries reach high score in the Failed state index?

3. SUGGESTED MARK

The oponent suggest that this paper should be graded as excellent. Due to excpetional performance and distinctive contribution to the research topic dean's award for the excellent master's thesis is recommended.

Date: 11/06/2013

Signature: