

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Zuzana Pytelová**

Název práce: **Vliv americké zahraniční politiky na Kambodžu v letech 1969-1975**

Oponoval (u externích oponentů 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 purpose of the dissertation is to evaluate United States foreign policy in Cambodia between 1969 and 1975. In particular, emphasis is placed upon the roles of President Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger. The work is placed within the context of the Cold War and the Vietnam conflict in general.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.): The work is well argued, well referenced, and properly structured. It comes as no surprise as my colleague and friend, Dr. Jan Bečka (a highly-regarded specialist on Southeast Asia), supervised the dissertation.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.): I feel that the work is well written, well referenced, and well presented. The maps at the end of the treatise are both illustrative and informative.

4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

Zuzana Pytelová has produced an interesting B.A. dissertation on United States foreign policy towards Cambodia in the endgame of American involvement in the Vietnam conflict. In my opinion, the work meets all the requirements for a B.A. dissertation. The argumentation is both sound and valid and the structure is logical. In all, the treatise contains an Introduction (Chapter 1), four main chapters (Chapters 2-5), and a Conclusion (Chapter 6). In the ensuing paragraphs, I shall comment upon each part of the work.

In the Introduction (Chapter 1), Zuzana clearly spells out the structure of the dissertation. She succinctly explains the content of each main chapter. In addition, Zuzana provides an overview of the existing literature on the topic. I like the Introduction because it is not inflated and informs the reader of what he or she can expect in the body of the work.

The first main chapter (Chapter 2) discusses the background of United States foreign policy. Zuzana rightly attributes containment and the domino theory as the ideas behind American foreign policy activities. For the Johnson administration, it was about winning or just plain fighting to win. After the Tet Offensive, which ruined Johnson's chances for a second term in office, Johnson opened peace talks, which led nowhere. Insofar as Cambodia is concerned, Zuzana discusses the shady activities of Prince Sihanouk who ultimately aided the North Vietnamese war effort and she also analyzes Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. This chapter is informative.

In the second main chapter (Chapter 3), Zuzana evaluates the situation from Nixon's ascent to the American presidency in January 1969 until the fall of Prince Sihanouk in 1970 and his replacement by Lon Nol. Zuzana depicts how the Nixon White House had to balance its pledges to reduce the American presence in Indochina with the notion that leaving too early would lead to the collapse of the South Vietnamese government. "Peace with honor" required much more. So, Madman Theory and Operation Menu (secret bombing of Cambodia) were pursued. Finally, Prince Sihanouk was overthrown by Lon Nol in a military coup. I think that this chapter demonstrates Zuzana's ability to work with evidence.

The third main chapter (Chapter 4) scrutinizes the relationship between the United States and Lon Nol. The unsuccessful American invasion of Cambodia and the road to the 1973 Paris peace talks are well analyzed. The growing power of the Khmer Rouge is also discussed as are the corruption and ineptitude of Lon Nol's regime and military. The Watergate Affair resulted in Nixon's resignation in 1974 and in 1975, the fate of Indochina was sealed. The rule of the Khmer Rouge represents a story unto itself. I have no problem with this chapter.

In the last main chapter (Chapter 5), Zuzana recapitulates the main foci and turning points of the American-Cambodian relationship. She basically says that in the last years prior to Pol Pot's takeover in Cambodia, the American influence on events was there, but minimal. This is a good chapter.

The Conclusion is brief, but to the point. I have no problem.

This is a well conceived B.A. dissertation. I recommend that it receive an excellent mark depending upon Zuzana's performance in the oral defense.

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

1. In your opinion, would Communism have come to Cambodia if the country had never become a battleground? Please explain your answer.

2. Is it possible that events in Cambodia would have taken a different turn if Sihanouk had not been replaced by Lon Nol?

6. DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA

(**v ý b o r n ě**, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): **V Ý B O R N Ě**

Datum: 15.1.2015

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.