

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
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PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): Kristýna Onderková

Název práce: The Harper Government, the Aboriginal Right to Self-Determination, and the Indian Act of 1876

Oponoval (u externích oponentů uveďte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce): Lucie Kýrová, M.A., Ph.D.

1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle):

This work examines the political status and rights of First Nations in Canada within the context of the Indian Act of 1876, contemporary socio-economic situation of indigenous peoples, and the Canadian government's attempts to change the legislation. It specifically focuses on the Harper Government's Aboriginal policy and legislative proposals and the First Nation's responses to them. The author's goal is to analyze to which extent the Harper Government's proposed legal changes are contradictory to or compatible with the First Nations' right to self-determination.

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.):

The author defines all key terms and concepts used in the work and clearly presents her aims and research goals. However, the work would benefit from a stronger thesis statement, presenting the author's analytical findings and arguments. The structure of the work presents the topic clearly and logically. The theory and methodology for the work is clearly defined and overall the author effectively uses variety of primary and secondary sources.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.):

The work is written in a very good English. All sources and quotations are correctly cited.

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

It is clear the author undertook a serious research and secured numerous primary and secondary sources, despite the geographical limitation of doing this research in the Czech Republic and not in Canada. The analysis of the Harper government policies and the Idle No More response demonstrate the differing views on indigenous rights and political reform concerning the 1876 Indian Act, fulfilling the goal of this work. However, the work feels little bit unbalanced. While the author discusses the indigenous models of self-determination in the introduction, in part I, chapter 1, pp. 21 – 32, the discussion of the political status and definitions of the First Nations concentrates on non-indigenous views. Since the goal of the work is to present the differing views of the Canadian government and the Native peoples on these issue, the section would be much stronger if the First Nation's own definitions and views were presented throughout, in contrast to those of non-Native politicians and academics. That would have also allowed the author to be more analytical in this section.

The relative lack of Native voice and agency (with the exception of p. 12 and part II, chapter 2) further skews the overall picture. The reader is left with the impression that First Nations' activism only flared up in response to the White Paper in 1969 and then only with the Idle No More movement. In this light it would seem that the recognition of First Nations' right to self-determination by the 1982 Constitution Act, Jean Chretien's Inherent Right Policy, and subsequent policies in the 1990s (p. 6, 17 – 18, 24 - 25) came out of the initiative of the government only, with

no indigenous input. Though, on p. 21, the author makes a note of First Nations' Constitutional Conference in Ottawa in the early 1980s, suggesting, greater Native involvement in the constitutional proceedings.

Last, but not least, a work dealing with political rights and status of First Nation (or Native Americans) has to acknowledge treaties and their role. By signing treaties with Native nations, the British crown recognized Native peoples as sovereign political entities. This recognition today serves as the foundation for Native demands for self-determination. Given that treaty rights appear in many of the primary sources the author quotes, the role of treaties should be acknowledged in the work, even if in one paragraph only.

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

What influence did First Nations' leaders and activists have on the 1982 Constitution and subsequent government policies?

On p. 57 you state the INM movement lost its momentum after 2013. Please elaborate – why do you think it happened? What does it suggest about the nature of social movements and the use of direct action protests?

6. DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA (výborně, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhovělo):

I recommend this work for defense. In case of successful defense I suggest mark of “velmi dobře“

Datum: 11. října 2016

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.