

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

GPS – Geopolitical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	Possible Consequences in Georgian-Russian Relations in case Georgia Receives the Membership Action Plan
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	<b>Tamar Demurishvili</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>	18
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	17
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>	<b>91</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:**

The thesis deals with an enormously important but also disputed issue which is a further step of Georgia towards a NATO membership which is a granting of Membership Action Plan, the last step before formal admission. Theoretically the thesis is framed within Mackinder's heartland theory which may be criticized from several different angles, but I find it as a fitting concerning the topic of author's research.

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

The contribution of Tamar's thesis rests in profound analysis of possible reaction of Russian Federation to the eventual decision of NATO to grant a Membership Action Plan to Georgia. The thesis differs from the original topic as outlined in the project proposal, however this does not negatively influence the final output. The author has designed 3 research questions: *1. Why NATO's enlargement to South Caucasus is important for European security architecture? 2. How Georgia's possible NATO membership will affect political and military relations between Georgia and Russia. 3. Why is it important to defend Georgia in period between MAP granting and possible actual accession?*

All questions are thoroughly analyzed throughout the thesis and it can be concluded the author has fulfilled the goal she declared in the introduction. All the conclusion she has drawn are relevant and based on solid theoretical ground as well as the analysis of relevant information that have been gathered.

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

The author has based the methodological part of her thesis on the so called countefactual reasoning which is relevant with regards to the thesis topic.

**4) Literature:**

The author has compiled a sufficient amount of primary, secondary resources, but also is built upon a relevant theoretical literature, including works of Sir H.Mackinder.

**5) Manuscript form:**

The thesis meets all formal criteria for Master thesis required by the Faculty of Social Science, including the scope of the thesis, linguistic standards, and structure of the thesis. What looks a bit weird is the chapter numbering in the table of contents (page 1) – when the chapter 1 is followed by 1.6. etc. Also maps which time to time appear throughout the thesis should be better listed in annexes or at least be in a better graphic quality. The overall impression is that Tamar has done a solid and objective analysis of the topic she had chosen and therefore recommend to grade is as excellent.

**DATE OF EVALUATION: 8 January 2018**

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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