

**UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE**  
**Fakulta sociálních věd**  
**Institut mezinárodních studií**

**PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE**  
**(Posudek vedoucího)**

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Ondřej Svoboda**

Název práce: **Americká zahraniční politika a kolumbijský mírový proces**

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):

**This study analyzes American foreign policy with respect to Colombia since the beginning of the new millennium. The main pillar of this policy is a strategy called Plan Colombia. While the original reasoning behind Plan Colombia was to enforce better antinarcotic strategy to avoid cocaine distribution to the United States, over time it morphed into a state-building effort. The aim of the study is to answer the question whether Plan Colombia was successful and, if so, whether it was a prerequisite for launching peace negotiations with the FARC and achieving durable peace.**

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

**The study contains an Introduction, three main chapters, and a Conclusion. The research question is well defined, the literature overview is more than sufficient, and the content is robust. There are a number of illustrative graphs, which add to the treatise. Overall, the argumentation is logical and the methodological approach is sound.**

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

**The writing style, grammar, referencing, and bibliography are fine.**

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

**Ondřej Svoboda has written his B.A. dissertation about the impact of American foreign policy on the peace process in Colombia. First of all, I must say that it was a pleasure to supervise this work because Ondřej was most cooperative. I will now say something about the structure of the dissertation. There is an Introduction, three main chapters, and a Conclusion. There are a number of useful graphs taken from legitimate sources. In the paragraphs that follow, I shall comment on each individual section.**

**The Introduction provides a roadmap of what to expect in the dissertation. The literature overview is quite thorough and the research question is precisely defined as follows: Did Plan Colombia and American foreign policy, in general, contribute to the creation of a stronger and more stable state? Ondřej explains in the methodology section how the Fragile State Index and Latinobarómetro served as useful sources of information. Also, a brief section on structure is included, which informs the reader of the direction of the rest of the dissertation. I think that the Introduction is excellent and gives the reader a clear idea of what to expect.**

**Chapter 1 represents a brief historical overview of the conflict in Colombia. In the first section, Ondřej portrays the difficult situation Colombia found itself in at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The lengthy civil war, rampant criminality, and gross inequality allowed for heavily armed drug cartels and it was difficult to tell whether the armed insurgent groups FARC and ELN were political revolutionaries of drug-dealing terrorist groups. Ondřej briefly explains the background of the main actors in the Colombian conflict, the onset of the guerrilla group BACRIM and then delves into the American reaction, which evolved into Plan Colombia approved by the U.S. Congress in June 2000. Though the program contained numerous aspects, 80 percent of all resources were used for strengthening the Colombian military and the fight against drugs. The post-9/11 reality changed the focus of Plan Colombia, which became an attempt to defeat the guerrillas and achieve greater control by central political organs over areas of Colombia long dominated by rebels. The result was a series of**

negotiations between the government and rebel organizations, which resulted in a peace agreement signed in Havana in August 2016. Due to a narrow rejection of the agreement in a referendum held in Colombia, the agreement was modified and ratified by the Colombian parliament on 1 December 2016. This chapter demonstrably shows the connection between changing priorities of the Americans post-9/11 and the strategies employed via Plan Colombia to achieve peace.

In Chapter 2, Ondřej focuses on concrete quantitative data showing the progress of the Colombian peace process linked to American assistance. According to the polls and indicators, economic, security, and social conditions in Colombia improved markedly following the launch of Plan Colombia. This chapter is convincing and the figures speak for themselves.

Chapter 3 briefly analyzes the political pressure placed by members of Congress on the Obama Administration concerning the peace process in Colombia. The Americans were in the background in order not to compromise the outcome of the negotiations, but they were keenly aware of what was transpiring. Despite some initial reservations concerning the prospect of leniency for FARC insurgents, in the end, Congressmen supported the peace process.

In the Conclusion, Ondřej repeats that Plan Colombia indeed contributed to the creation of a stronger and more stable Colombian state. The first phase had involved hard power, whereas, in the second phase, primarily soft power was employed. Ondřej credits the success to the fact that Colombians are mainly pro-American in their orientation. Another factor was that the operation was mainly handled by the Colombians themselves (with American assistance). This differed from the hands on approach that the Americans adopted in Afghanistan and Iraq. Unlike in Afghanistan and Iraq, Plan Colombia was not seen as an American intervention.

I think that this dissertation is of outstanding quality. It is neither too short, nor too long and the main point is always emphasized. I recommend an excellent (A) classification

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

1. Are there any other countries where an American approach similar to Plan Colombia could yield similar results?

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

(výborně, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhově): A

Datum: **2 June 2018**

Podpis:

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Pozn.: Hodnocení pište 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.