

MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

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

Thesis title:	Geopolitics of faith: Russian Orthodox Church in the Western Balkans
Name of Student:	Maraš Darija
Referee (incl. titles):	Michael Romancov, Ph.D.
Report Due Date:	2. September, 2022

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the four numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Contribution and argument:

The student chose a field-relevant, current (to a certain degree extremely current), and very challenging topic for her diploma thesis, which she managed to handle at an excellent level. The topic is presented and discussed in a sufficiently broad historical and current (geo)political context, so the reader has the opportunity to view the entire issue in sufficient breadth and depth. Thanks to a wide range of literature, an appropriately chosen methodology and a theoretical basis, the conclusions reached by the student are well-founded and well-argued.

2) Theoretical and methodological framework:

Joseph Nye's soft power theory is a suitable theoretical tool for the research of the chosen phenomenon.

3) Sources and literature:

The thesis is based on a sufficient amount of relevant sources of an academic nature, Russian geopolitical and pseudo-geopolitical concepts, church documents, and other relevant sources.

4) Manuscript form and structure:

Excellent.

5) Quality of presentation

Excellent

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	35
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	21
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	10
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	15
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	10
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	91
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	A

Suggested questions for the defence are:

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.