

CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of International Studies

PROTOCOL ON DIPLOMA THESIS ASSESSMENT
(Reviewer)

Name of the student: **Yu Tian**

Title: **The role of state governance in GVCs – the example of the globalization of the Czech automotive industry after the 1990s.**

Reviewer: **doc. PhDr. Tomáš Nigrin, Ph.D.**

1. TOPIC AND OBJECTIVE (short information on the thesis, research objective):

The MA thesis is focusing on the Czech automotive industry after 1990s as a showcase of globalisation impacts. It also focuses on the role of state during the privatisation process and the role of Czech state as a facilitator, regulator and distributor of global value chains.

The key moment for the MA thesis and the research is the economic transformation and the shifting role for the state from the owner of automotive to regulator etc. The difficulty of this process stresses the importance of car industry for the whole Czech economy.

2. CONTENT (complexity, original approach, argument, structure, theoretical and methodological backing, work with sources, appropriateness of annexes etc.):

The chosen topic is very important for Czech and Central European economy as the automotive industry led by Škoda company as a Volkswagen group member has been a unique success story. This is stressed by economic importance of Škoda company and of its automotive parts suppliers in this region.

The thesis is divided into two main parts – in theoretical chapter on the Czech automotive industry and global value chains. The second chapter is dealing the role of state as a facilitator, regulator and distributor in this process. Unclear is the role of the chapter “discussion” which is a mixture of the results of research, partly could relate to introduction and partly to conclusion.

Unfortunately, the research itself remain only on the surface. The author is not discussing or finding substantive data or statements and is using only very limited sources. After page nr. 33 there is huge lack of any sources, and some pages stay without any quotation. The statements in these parts of the thesis are not based on any source.

3. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE (quality of language, citation style, graphics, formal aspects etc.):

I have only few comments on formal aspects. The thesis was delivered in good quality and the language level is very good. There are minor typographic mistakes. For the reader was very unpleasant the length of paragraphs.

4. STATEMENT ON THE ORIGINALITY OF THE THESIS

The thesis was checked by the Turnitin anti-plagiarism software, and no problem was found. The similarity of 32 percent is not connected to one source.

5. SHORT COMMENTS BY THE REVIEWER (overall impression, strengths and weaknesses, originality of ideas, achievement of the research objective etc.):

The impression of this thesis is neutral. Positive points are the chosen topic, it's importance for Czech Republic and Central Europe and the possibility to use it as a show case of transformation. The most negative point is that there is no clear research question which would be answered by clear and deep research and connected with the structure of the thesis.

6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED DURING THE DEFENCE:

Describe the results of the research – the role of the state in the Czech automotive as a facilitator, regulator and distributor. Can You find any similarities abroad? Any other similar or different cases comparable to the Czech republic?

7. (NON-)RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED GRADE:

YES – D/E (on A-F scale)

Date:

Signature: