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

PROTOCOL ON DIPLOMA THESIS ASSESSMENT
(Supervisor)

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

Supervisor: Karel Svoboda

1. TOPIC AND OBJECTIVE (short information on the thesis, research objective): The paper explores the developments in the Czech automobile industry through the lens of the Global Value Chains theory. The author concentrates on the state's role in the GVC and the policies designed to attract FDI to the country. The paper applies the Global Value Chains theory on the Czech case.

2. CONTENT (complexity, original approach, argument, structure, theoretical and methodological backing, work with sources, appropriateness of annexes etc.): As a case study, she chose the Czech automotive industry after 1991. The theoretical setting is, therefore, well-defined. However, the state's role is getting lost during the reading of the paper.

The author rightly debates historical conditions for building an automotive industry. Furthermore, privatization and the selected type (compared to other sectors, the main producer, Škoda auto, was sold directly to the hands of Volkswagen) impacted the economy to export-oriented. Nevertheless, some of the challenges of today's industry worldwide, such as the emergence of electric cars or the growth of Chinese carmakers' competition, supply chain disruptions, and the state reaction to it should be discussed more in-depth. Although Skoda auto is the most important Czech producer, it is not the only one.

3. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE (quality of language, citation style, graphics, formal aspects etc.):
From the formal side, the paper combines two referencing styles, which is a mistake. The paper should be uniform in this respect, using one or the other styles but not at once. Furthermore, sorting the references in an alphabet order is not without flaws.

4. STATEMENT ON THE ORIGINALITY OF THE THESIS

The thesis was checked by the Turnitin/URKUND/Theses ani-plagiarism software and it revealed 16 percent of correspondence with other sources. However, a closer look confirms originality of the thesis.

5. SHORT COMMENTS BY THE REVIEWER (overall impression, strengths and weaknesses, originality of ideas, achievement of the research objective etc.):
The thesis is written in a descriptive style, which is acceptable but could and should be more ambitious. I would appreciate even more detail in the paper. The author often speaks in general terms – about "many" technicians etc., without giving an exact number. While overburdening a paper with facts is not a goal, more data

supporting the conclusions would be appreciated, especially in the parts dealing with the state's roles in dealing with the industry.

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6. COOPERATION WITH THE SUPERVISOR (communication with the supervisor, ability to reflect comments, shift from the original intention, etc.)
The cooperation was very good during the 'ideas stage'. However, I received the final version only few days before submission, leaving effectively one day to read it.

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

1. **How did the Czech automobile producers react to the electric cars' emergence?**
2. **Does the middle-income trap influence the Czech automotive industry? In what way?**

8. (NON-)RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED GRADE:

YES – D (on A-F scale)

Date: Signature: