MASTER´S EXAMINER REPORT

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

Thesis title:	**The Virtual FPE: A Counterfactual Analysis of Operation Iraqi Freedom**
Name of Student:	**Aaron Smith**
Referee *(incl. titles)***:**	**doc. PhDr. Francis Raška, PhD.**
Report Due Date:	

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

1) Contribution and argument: This certainly is an ambitious thesis. It contributes to our understanding of potential wartime scenarios and highlights the role of the so-called Foreign Policy Executive. The thesis is counterfactual.
2) Theoretical and methodological framework: The student explains counterfactualism and the theory of neorealism in geopolitics. I think that the chapter on theory is sufficiently informative and relevant to the actual content.
3) Sources and literature: I have no problem with the consulted and cited sources. The major authors are included in the bibliography and cited in the text.
4) Manuscript form and structure: I think that the form and structure are fine.
5) Quality of presentation The student writes using a very high level of English, but there are a few typographical errors.

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) *(max. 40 points)*	**36**
Theoretical and methodological framework *(max. 25 points)*	**23**
Sources and literature *(max. 10 points)*	**10**
Manuscript form and structure *(max. 15 points)*	**14**
Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) *(max. 10 points)*	**9**
TOTAL POINTS *(max. 100 points)*	**92**
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	**A**

Suggested questions for the defence are:

What could be some potential policy impacts of your research?

How reliable is counterfactualism in the prediction of potential outcomes? Please explain.

I (do not) <u>recommend</u> the thesis for final defence.

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Referee Signature

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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.