



# Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2023/2024

**Student's name and surname:** Samuel Blecharž  
**Student's ID:** 65446576

**Type of the study programme:** Bachelor's  
**Study programme:** Politics, Philosophy and Economics  
**Study ID:** 640962

**Title of the thesis:** Populism in Slovak Republic and its Threats  
**Thesis department:** Department of Political Science (23-KP)  
**Language of the thesis:** English  
**Language of defence:** English  
**Advisor:** Mgr. Jakub Franěk, Ph.D.

**Reviewer(s):** doc. PhDr. Miloš Brunclík, Ph.D.

**Date of defence:** 05.09.2024    **Venue of defence:** Praha

**Attempt:** 1. resitting

**Course of the examination:** Student presented thesis about populism in Slovakia. Student mentioned that first part of thesis presents political theoretical framework, second part of thesis look at populism in particular period in Slovakia. Student answered that populism threatens liberal democracy because it undermines checks and balances, as different branches of government no longer independent, corruption a problem in Slovakia due to no longer having proper checks and balances. Question about how Fico's government still popular despite corruption. Student mentioned that Slovakia highly polarised. Committee mentioned that populists are by definition anti establishment, Fico having been PM three times is part of the elite, what kind of elite is Fico criticising. Student mentioned that Fico criticised opposition, previous government, manipulated voters. Committee asked what kind of elites is Fico targeting. Student mentioned that Fico criticise EU, knows what's best for common people as opposed to intellectual, cultural elites. Committee asked what labels Fico uses against opponent. Student mentioned Fico describes opponents as immoral liberals, who are pro homosexual marriage, pro immigration, Fico opposed to all of that. Committee asked what is originality of thesis. Student mentioned that originality of thesis is specific time frame, not much academic literature on this period. Committee asked how is thesis different from political commentary. Student mentioned that thesis is more in depth, used international sources, highlight issues of corruption. Committee asked how is populism related to corruption in Slovakia. Student mentioned that Fico used populists methods to win election, can do whatever the executive wants, insufficient check and balance.

<b>Result of defence:</b>	good (E)	
<b>Chair of the board:</b>	Franěk Jakub, Mgr., Ph.D. (present)	.....
<b>Committee members:</b>	Špecián Petr, Ing., Ph.D. (present)	.....
	Tesař Jakub, Mgr., Ph.D. (present)	.....