

Opponent's review of Bachelor thesis *A Comparative Study of Sumptuary Laws on Clothing in Early Modern Central Europe and Tokugawa Japan* by Maryam Barshatli, Prague 2024

Maryam Barshatli's Bachelor thesis deals with an analysis of the sumptuary laws or sumptuary regulations (i.e., dress regulations) of Tokugawa Japan and early modern Central Europe within a comparative perspective. The above mentioned regulations are related to fashion, fabrics and jewelry.

The study also deals with such issues as social status, changes in the social and economic structures as well as changes in the spheres of religion and culture.

There are 8 chapters, from Introduction to Conclusion including Methodology, Literature and Sources and a very extensive comparative analysis of both regions (Europe and Japan, chapters 5 – 7).

The methodological work frame is well designed. The author applies two main methodological approaches: comparative method and material culture approach. The author also deals with the concepts of consumption and luxury designed by Grassby, Veblen, and others scholars.

Although the time and location frame have been specified, I would prefer more precise definition and more specific localization of the Central European area (i.e., the territory of the Central Europe). The analysis focuses mostly on territory of Switzerland, today's Germany and some other countries. However, there are only few mentions of the Polish Kingdom, Rzeczpospolita, the Kingdom of Bohemia or other countries that are inseparable part of the territory of Central Europe.

The goals and objectives of the research are well-articulated and clearly structured (see, for example, "How do the sumptuary laws on clothing in early modern Central Europe and Tokugawa Japan compare? What is similar and what is different? How can we explain these differences and commonalities? How do they articulate social structure and what do they reveal about the political and economic situations of their time? What does the comparative analysis of those two regions tell us about the early modern world and about the sociocultural phenomenon of clothing regulations?" and others, see p. 1).

However, these goals and research questions have not been mentioned nor answered in the Conclusion. Therefore, the structure of the thesis unfortunately is not coherent.

I consider the submitted bachelor thesis as very good, presenting high quality of analysis and interpretation.

For the final grade I recommend “B” (“very good”). The grade could be changed to “A” (“excellent”) depending on the results of the student’s performance at the thesis defence.

Prague, September 18, 2024

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