Posudek na diplomovou práci

Autor/ka práce: Bc. Eva Petrželková

Název práce: NGOs and unethical labor in international context: methods and results

Obor/Rok: Mezinárodní vztahy, 2024

Autor/ka posudku (~~vedoucí~~/oponent práce): Mgr. Jan Dostál, oponent

Kritéria	Definice	Max. bodů	Získané body
Hlavní kritéria			
	Výzkumná otázka, formulace problému	**10**	8
	Teoretický konceptuální rámec	**30**	25-26
	Metodologie, analýza argumentace	**40**	30
Celkem		**80**	63-64
Vedlejší kritéria			
	Zdroje	**10**	9
	Styl	**5**	4
	Formální kritéria	**5**	4
Celkem		**20**	17
CELKEM		**100**	80-81

Slovní hodnocení:

Hlavní kritéria:

I consider this thesis as a very good work; the author shows through the entire text that she gained a significant amount of knowledge about the issue. The research questions, hypothesis and goals of the thesis are clearly stated, and it is shown how they aim to be answered.

I especially highly value the main idea of the thesis, the strategies of NGOs in terms of influencing labor conditions, as it is not covered by the existing literature, and models it develops in terms of approaches they use, which is the main contribution of this thesis.

However, I would firstly raise some smaller comments about the historical context, in which the author failed to mention the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as I think the most relevant and influential document on the issue of human rights and a basis for the Right-Based Approach the author uses. The author also mistakenly implies on p. 16 that the 2 UN programmes, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) were established in the 1990s. The author is right to note that the concept of development has been expanded to "human development" at this time and these organizations were the main proponents of this expansion, but they have been set up already in the aftermath of the World War II. Since the focus of the thesis is especially on the labor conditions and thus the International Labour Organization (ILO), I would also expect a note dedicated to the "basic needs" approach, introduced by the ILO already in 1976, stating the satisfaction of basic human needs as a goal for the main international organizations. Nevertheless, these are only minor comments, as they do not relate to the overall setting of the thesis, its main question and results, but still show the author might have done a more careful reading of the context for the first chapter.

The main problem of this thesis lies in the aspect of methodology and data and subsequently mainly in its originality and contribution – the author chooses three longitudinal case studies into China, Bangladesh and Indonesia, the labor conditions in these countries and the strategies of NGOs used to influence the labor conditions. The author uses variables like wages, with statistical data, obtained mainly from the ILO, as measures but claims that these will play only a "supplementary role," with the focus on on-the-ground reports, factory assessments, surveys, or testimonies of individual workers. As it is apparent from the analysis, the data from ILO especially in the case of Bangladesh is not available, or very much limited (we therefore miss the statistics particularly on wages and working hours), which in my opinion should be more openly acknowledged by the author. But the bigger issue lies in the lack of original data collected by the author herself. The case studies in the analysis seem to include accounts from various reports, issued by organizations like the Fair Labor Association, Amnesty International, or Human Rights Watch. But has the author herself conducted a survey, or collected testimonies as announced? In other words, what exactly is the added value of the author's analysis beyond the summarization of the development of labor conditions in these three countries in the last 20 years? I am not claiming that this is not enough for a diploma thesis, I consider it still a very detailed analysis of the cases, but I am still missing a contribution of the author in terms of data

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collection. Moreover, how exactly statistical data should answer the main research question, i.e. the influence of the NGO strategies/mechanisms in improving labor conditions? I would imagine that perhaps a survey among, or interviews with the NGO representatives themselves would be more useful in that regard (and also more original). The author should definitely clarify during the defence, what exactly is the author's own contribution to the existing knowledge, what data has the author collected in the research into the influence of NGOs on labor conditions? The author should also address the question of identifying and distinguishing other possible factors behind improving labor conditions besides the influence of NGOs (international factors, other domestical actors). I think the author does not quite cover that, or explain particularly how the accounts from the reports, statistical data show the influence of NGOs on these? During the defence, the author should answer on what other possible factors may influence the phenomena of interest (improvement of labor conditions) and how the analysis itself demonstrate the influence of NGOs, especially in the case of Indonesia, because the other cases did not reveal significant improvement of conditions. Based on the answers the committee can determine the grade.

The comment of originality is relevant also in relation to the high percentage of text from other sources used in this thesis, signifying thus the relatively low originality of the thesis. Nevertheless, I do not consider the analysis the author has conducted as insufficient for a diploma thesis, the length and detail of the case studies show the author has done a big amount of work – perhaps it goes too much into various aspects and details of the individual working conditions and focuses less on the NGO's strategies and the theoretical framework, which I think the author should highlight more as the (in my view) most important original contribution of this thesis. In addition, the author also aims to set policy recommendations for NGOs as one of the goals for the thesis and largely fails to deliver on that, although it is possible for a thesis to be policy oriented, I would advise to refrain from the focus on policy if the outcomes are not clearer beforehand and focus on the research questions.

Vedlejší kritéria:
The author is using in the entire thesis references in a coherent manner, bibliography is included, the data sources are also provided. The style and formal criteria meet all the necessary requirements for a diploma thesis. The graphs presented in the thesis are very helpful, correctly represent the data, i.e. the visual representation thus helps to paint a clear picture of the phenomena. The only major inadequacy in terms of style is aligning the text to the left, the standard being to justify, hence decreasing the clarity of the text for the reader.

Vyjádření k plagiarismu: The other critical remark regarding the formal criteria is the high percentage of not original text (30 % similarity with other sources in Turnitin). However, the thesis does not show any signs of plagiarism, the high similarity is caused mainly by high usage of direct quotations from multiple sources. We can still say that there is not a plagiarism concern, the thesis is an original piece of work and brings new findings to the field, that have not been published anywhere else, but the author should limit using long direct quotes.

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Celkové hodnocení: 80-81

Výsledná známka: B/C

Podpis: