

MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

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

Thesis title:	The Steppe Tradition of Geopolitics: Implications for Post-Soviet Reimperialization Unfortunately, the name is listed in SIS: Regionalism in Central Asia: new perspectives in the age of Russian decline
Name of Student:	Alexander Joseph Purton
Referee (incl. titles):	Michael Romancov, Ph.D.
Report Due Date:	10. 9. 2024

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

1) Contribution and argument:

I must honestly say that I have never yet come across a work of such a large scale as this thesis. 315 pages of text (sic!) is unusual for a diploma thesis. The author has chosen a very original and at the same time still current topic, which he elaborated in depth and in considerable breadth. This, in my opinion, is the greatest weakness of his work, because the reader often must go back to stick to the main problem that is the subject of research. However, this does not mean that I do not appreciate the complexity of the research and the obvious zeal with which the author undertook his task.

2) Theoretical and methodological framework:

The theoretical and methodological part of the work is very carefully presented and processed. Motyl's approach is original and suits the nature of the researched topic.

3) Sources and literature:

The thesis is based on a huge amount of relevant academic and other information sources. All sources are properly and carefully cited.

4) Manuscript form and structure:

The text of the dissertation meets all the standards that are usually imposed on texts of this type.

5) Quality of presentation

The diploma thesis is extremely long, which is both its benefit and problem. On the one hand, this allowed the author to broadly present the discussed topics and to process them in depth, on the other hand, a huge number of "detours" appear in the text, which unnecessarily divert attention from the main topic.

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	35
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	25
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	10
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	15
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	9
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	94
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	A

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

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.