

**KARLOVA UNIVERZITA V PRAZE**  
**Fakulta sociálních věd**  
**Institut politologických studií**

*Master's Thesis Assessment*

**AUTHOR:** William Rodd

**TITLE OF THE THESIS:** Geopolitical Impact of China's Search for Energy on the Indian Ocean and South China Sea

**ASSESSED BY:** Mgr. Martin Riegl, PhD.

**ASSESSMENT TYPE:** Opponent

**1. ASSESSMENT OF THE THESIS CONTENT**

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES	MARK
Relevancy of the topic in relation to the current scientific knowledge	1
Originality of the thesis, contribution to the science subject field	1
Integrity and scale of sources and literature relevant to the subject study	1
Ability for critical appraisal of the sources	1
Standards of working with sources	2
Methodology and its relevancy to the subject study and thesis goals	1
Logic of the thesis structure	1
Ability to argue, cohesion and coherence of the argument	1
Terminology in the relevant field	1
Adhesion to the citation norm	1
Language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis	1

**COMMENTARY:**

The author has chosen an increasingly relevant geopolitical topic related to the geopolitical consequences of China's search for energy resources in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea, which is threatened by US naval strategy based on the control of First and Second Island Chain

within the Pacific Rim. The encirclement of China is threatening country's vital interests and its desperate seek for energy resources in the Pacific as well as in the Indian Ocean).

This topic is highly relevant within the region of South-East Asia only, but is also a part of broader geopolitical strategies (the author uses the theory of A.Mahan) and doctrines of all states involved.

The thesis has a well defined and clear structure composed of following parts: Introduction, The Geopolitics of Mahan, Neo-Liberal Facets of Geopolitics, and Context of Chinese Naval Policy, Background, Geopolitics of Alternative Energy, Chinese Interests, Geopolitical Analysis of China's Rise on the Indian Ocean, Conclusion).

The author works in his thesis with Mahan's geopolitical theory and applies it to the contemporary Chinese naval doctrine and strategic thinking. Rodd's approach allows the reader to understand the potential conclusions that are to be expected from the thesis.

Inspite of minor insufficiencies e.g. monographies of Z.Brzezinski and S. Cohen are missing. The author of this thesis deep analysis of potential geopolitical poewr shift between Maritime realm led by the US and continental Euroasia dominated by dynamic China from the perspective of search for energy in the region of SE Asia. In case of succesfful defense I do recommend to mark it as excellent.

## **2. QUESTIONS FOR THE DEFENSE**

Can be SE Asia dominated by mainland China and South Asia dominated by India considered independent geopolitical realms?

Is China a part of continental Euroasia (Heartland) or part of Maritime realm?

## **3. SUGGESTED MARK**

**The oponent suggest that this paper should be graded as excellent.**

Date: 17/06/2012

Signature: