

Evaluation of bc. thesis written by **Fliuza Tazieva:**
„The Impact of the rise of the BRICS on international relations: The case of Brazil“

The thesis is dealing with important contemporary topic of international relations trying to analyse a possible alternative power center – toward the Western dominated international order – consisting of five so called emerging markets: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. The leading idea is that strong economic growth among these five nations can be secured with deeper economic cooperation with each other. Second, as a consequence of the economic power the BRICS will become potentially powerful geopolitical entity. The idea of BRIC emerging markets come with Goldman Sachs in 2001. Only in 2009 it materialized in the first summit of the BRICS countries in Russia.

The thesis is written with clearly stated research question and with the sufficient and relevant theoretical background from the field of political science and international relations (IR). It is also trying to perform a critical interpretation of the BRICS, its historical emergence and its contemporary role in the international relations, in the first part of the thesis. In the second part, the student is dealing with the BRICS from the perspective of Brazil, one of its member state. This part seems to be a little bit outdated, because a lot of events and both political and economic crisis, have happened since the student finished writing the thesis. However, it shows how fragile individual BRICS members are, and how the whole idea of ever stronger BRICS is questionable (since the idea is that the economic cooperation among the members should bypass the Western dominated trade system and help to build more stable economic growth among the BRICS countries). The thesis is also written in a good language and form.

Possible questions for the defense:

1. Are there any critics of the idea of BRICS in Russia (in academia, in media)? If so, what is their point?
2. How does the BRICS see the West? What is the perception of the West by the BRICS? What are the main criticisms aimed at the West? (main issues or topics).
3. What surprising or unexpected have you personally learned about the BRICS while writing and re-writing the thesis?

I propose mark 2-3 based on the oral defense.

Mgr. Karel Černý, Ph.D.
Prague, 12th September 2016