

Evaluation of Master Thesis *Cultural integration or emphasizing difference? Reflections of China's history (1949-1976) in the mirror of British and American historiography* by Meng Xianjie.

Meng Xianjie thesis deals with analysis of selected British and American historiography and its reflection of China's history.

As sources used in the research, Meng Xianjie analyzed and compared the works of several western (i.e. European and American) scholars (*The People Republic of China 1949-76* by Michael Lynch, *China 1900-76* by Geoff Stewart and *A History of China* by J. A. G. Roberts). Student compared different approaches to a China's history and terminology of Western scholars used in their studies.

For the purpose of comparison Meng Xianjie choose several key periods of China's contemporary history (they are Cultural Revolution, The First Five-Year Plan, the Big Leap, Hundred Flowers Campaign and other crucial historical events). She also deals with different particular aspects of a contemporary China's history. Some of them were a direct result of China's contemporary transformation from feudal to modern society (especially women issue, opium issue, total control in new communist society and others).

Meng's diploma thesis consists of five chapters. Each chapter deals with certain period of China's history. The Chapter 1 is devoted to the period 1949-56. Student analyses here the interpretation of transition from the democratic revolution to the socialist revolution by western scholars (Lynch, Stewart, Roberts).

The Chapter 2 deals with postrevolution period (1956-66) and finally Chapter 3 is devoted to the period 1966-1976 (Cultural Revolution).

As a main research method student choose critical analyses of the sources and their comparison. I wish to remark that sometimes Mrs. Meng doesn't share western criticism and critical approach to the interpretation of China's history and especially of the history of Chinese communist party and its leader Mao Zedong. Nevertheless, she is quite successful in keeping critical distance through all chapters of her diploma thesis. The minor shortcoming is a short list of literature.

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

For the final grade I recommend “B” (“very good”).

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Mgr. Alena Marková, Ph.D.