

Final Opponent's Report on Doctoral Thesis

Study programme: PhD Programme in International Relations

PhD. Candidate: JUDr. Et Mgr. Tomáš Bruner

Thesis title: "Sinking Islands" and the United Nations Security Council

Opponent: Doc. JUDr. PhDr. Veronika Bílková, Ph.D., E.MA

Workplace: Institute of International Relations, Prague

In my preliminary report submitted in June 2019, I concluded that "*the thesis meets the requirements for a PhD thesis in International Relations*" and this "*despite the fact that for a reader from outside the discipline, there is relatively little to learn*". I then commented on the theoretical approach (legal geography), some of the concepts used in the thesis (e.g. commutative and distributive justice) and the analysis presented, or not, in the thesis. In the revised version of the thesis and in the letter of explanation attached to it, the author of the thesis addresses some of my comments. I appreciate the thoughtful and detailed way in which he has done so. The thesis has been improved and certain aspects (e.g. methodology) have become clearer. I am still not persuaded of the virtues of the theoretical approach used in the thesis and of the relevance of some of the concepts. I also continue to think that the analytical part of the thesis is much weaker than the theoretical one, not allowing readers to fully comprehend, and appreciate, what the original contribution brought by the author's approach is and failing to provide really new insight into the topic. Yet, I stick to the view that the thesis qualifies as suitable for defence before the PhD commission. For the detailed comments on the thesis, see the opponent's preliminary report.

Done in Prague on 6 September 2019