

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut mezinárodních studií

PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): **Jana Bábiková**

Název práce: **Anglo-americké „zvláště vzťahy“ počas vlády Gordona Browna: prípad riešenia finančnej krízy**

Oponoval (u externích oponentů uvedte též adresu a funkci v rámci instituce):

Doc. PhDr. Francis D. Raška, PhD.

1. OBSAH A CÍL PRÁCE (stručná informace o práci, formulace cíle): The aim of this work is to demonstrate the functioning of the “special relationship” between Great Britain and the United States within the context of the recent financial crisis. The work also seeks to define the term “special relationship” and its functioning during the administration of British prime minister, Gordon Brown. The main focus will be the economic aspect of the “special relationship.”

2. VĚCNÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (náročnost, tvůrčí přístup, argumentace, logická struktura, teoretické a metodologické ukotvení, práce s prameny a literaturou, vhodnost příloh apod.): The dissertation is well conceived and argued. It represents a case study. All sources consulted are appropriate.

3. FORMÁLNÍ A JAZYKOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ (jazykový projev, správnost citace a odkazů na literaturu, grafická úprava, formální náležitosti práce apod.): The treatise is written using lively language. Sources are correctly cited and formal requirements are met, if not surpassed.

4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE (celkový dojem z bakalářské práce, silné a slabé stránky, originalita myšlenek, naplnění cíle apod.):

Jana Bábiková has selected the U.S.-U.K “special relationship” as the topic of her B.A. dissertation. Unlike most Scholars, she has opted to emphasize the economic aspect of the “special relationship.” Jana limits her discussion to the era of U.K. prime minister, Gordon Brown. The work is well written and brilliantly organized. There is an Introduction, four main chapters, and a Conclusion. In the following paragraphs, I will comment on each section of the dissertation.

In the Introduction, Jana clearly defines her aims. Her main research question is “How did the “special relationship” influence the solution to the global financial crisis, which began in 2008”? As mentioned above, the work is a case study. The content of the main chapters is aptly explained and Jana’s overview of the literature is more than sufficient.

Chapter 1 begins by defining the term “special relationship” in different contexts. Jana recapitulates the history and evolution of the “special relationship” since the Second World War. She depicts the different levels of the “special relationship.” For her purposes, Jana emphasizes that the economic level is most important. This chapter is excellent.

Chapter 2 is devoted to the “special relationship” during the tenure of Gordon Brown. First of all, she explains how Brown came to power in 2007 knowing full well that from January 2009 there would be a new American president in the White House. Though Brown’s predecessor, Tony Blair, and President George W. Bush had concentrated on the war on terror and basic security aspects of the “special relationship”, Brown, as an economist, did not want to be constrained by this and desired to tackle economic matters. For the rest of Bush’s tenure in office, Brown maintained friendly relations with the United States, but from the position of a “bulldog” rather than that of a “poodle” (Tony Blair had earned that classification because the British media and public perceived him as being too subservient to Bush.) Upon Barack Obama’s assumption of the presidency in 2009, the nature of the “special relationship” changed. After all, the financial crisis had begun and all eyes turned to the G20 summit and which remedies would be agreed upon to address the crisis. Efforts to warm up relations between Brown and Obama were hampered by the Scottish decision to release a Libyan terrorist convicted of the 1988 plane bombing over Lockerbie, which killed mainly American citizens. Another problem was the fact that Britain was lacking financial resources to expand its cooperation with the United States in the war on terror. A major problem was that the war on terror was perceived differently in the U.S. and U.K.,

respectively. This chapter is very informative.

Chapter 3 deals with the financial crisis and joint British-American efforts to arrive at a solution. The causes of the crisis and its impact on both Britain and the United States are analyzed well by Jana. Brown had already convinced the outgoing George W. Bush that a global solution to the financial crisis would be necessary. Brown saw the G20 as an appropriate platform to address the crisis. The idea here was that the G20 was more global than the G8 and Brown persuaded Bush (and this continued under Obama) that meetings of the G20 heads of state were in order. This chapter is crucial because it highlights the overall importance of economic diplomacy in finding a solution to the global crisis. Gordon Brown played a key role here and rightly deserves credit.

Chapter 4 examines the individual G20 summits. The first one in November 2008 took place in Washington. Brown was quite insistent that the second summit should be in London and indeed it was. The important matter here was that Britain and America saw eye to eye on finding solutions to the crisis despite continental European and Chinese pressure for other solutions. The fact that the second G20 summit took place in London signified the continued relevance of the “special relationship” even under President Obama. This chapter speaks for itself.

In the Conclusion, Jana recapitulates her findings and emphasizes the continued importance of the “special relationship.” In particular, she argues that the “special relationship” is still valid even in a globalized world.

This dissertation is of superior quality. I recommend an **excellent** mark and a possible **Dean’s commendation**.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ (jedna až tři):

1. How has the “special relationship” fared since David Cameron became British prime minister?

2. Has President Obama overall helped or hindered the “special relationship”? Why?

6. DOPORUČENÍ / NEDOPORUČENÍ K OBHAJOBĚ A NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA

(výborně, velmi dobře, dobře, nevyhověl): **VÝBORNĚ. NAVRHUJI POCHVALU PANA DĚKANA.**

Datum: 6.6.2014

Podpis:

Pozn.: Hodnocení píše k jednotlivým bodům, pokud nepíšete v textovém editoru, použijte při nedostatku místa zadní stranu nebo příložený list. V hodnocení práce se pokuste oddělit ty její nedostatky, které jsou, podle vašeho mínění, obhajobou neodstranitelné (např. chybí kritické zhodnocení pramenů a literatury), od těch věcí, které student může dobrou obhajobou napravit; poměr těchto dvou položek berte prosím v úvahu při stanovení konečné známky.