

BACHELOR THESIS EVALUATION: THESIS OPPONENT

Thesis topic: Communism and its Influence on Slovak Public Space; How the Regime Influenced Slovak Behavior and People's Attitudes Towards Communist Monuments

Author: Orlovská Nicola

Advisor: Kusá Dagmar

Opponent: Abrahám Samuel

Study program: Political Science, Liberal Arts

Evaluation contains objective and critical analysis of a bachelor thesis proposal. Evaluation should be considered by the following criteria:

Criteria for the evaluation of the final thesis	Max. points	Points given by evaluator
1. Methodological aspect (Logical frame, process of inquiry, topic specification, how realistic are set goals and how adequate are proposed working methods)	10	9
2. Sources of domestic and foreign literature, familiarity with relevant literature	15	13
3. Formatting and style	15	14
4. Scope and proportionality of content	5	5
5. Systematic approach	15	14
6. Evaluation of achieved results	40	37
Total	100	92

Final evaluation: A (95-100 points), B (83-94 points), C (68-82 points), D (55-67 points), E (50-54 points), Fx (<50 points)

Evaluation, comments, recommendations:

The work has an excellent topic and Nicola has done valuable interviews with Slovak scholars, politicians and common people. As expected, in such complex topic and analysis, Nicola has slipped to several general statements where a more nuance analysis was required. Her theses that Slovak has a "Parochial Political Culture" is sounds and interesting but the reason for it deserve more subtle analysis to explain the reasons why, for example, the situation was different in the Czech Republic and Slovakia during so-called Normalization period (1969-1989). Overall, it is a worthy attempt that, hopefully, Nicole will explore further in the future to produce a text that could be published in Slovakia and become a source for an interesting and contentions discussion. A discussion that is missing in Slovakia.

Questions for the author (relevant to the content of the Thesis):

1. You write: "Majority of Slovaks [were] beneficiaries and bystanders of the communist oppression." Explain the reasons for this before 1989.
2. Elaborate on your statement that "the [communist] regime has left people with a syndrome of irresponsibility". What consequences it had on society's condition after 1989? Or even on the next generation?
3. You quote Žatkuliak's claim that the different developments in Czech Republic and Slovakia before 1989 was because top communist officials were Slovak (Husak, Bilak). Could you provide more reasons than this skewed statement for the different developments during Normalization in two republics?

In Bratislava, on: __August 22, 2023__(date)

Signature of evaluator: _____

