



BACHELOR THESIS EVALUATION: THESIS ADVISOR

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

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Advisor: Dagmar Kusá

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	14
3. Formatting and style	15	15
4. Scope and proportionality of content	5	5
5. Systematic approach	15	14
6. Evaluation of achieved results	40	38
Total	100	95

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 of the thesis advisor:

The author has chosen this thesis as a path to understand the people through their relationship to the past and its representation in public space. The thesis highlights the importance of the social structure of a country as well as the prevailing social norms that people assume in relation to the nature of the oppressive regime. Combination of these factors, in a path dependent way, then shape the society's choices in addressing the past and the attitude of the people to the remnants of that past in the public space.

The thesis went through several iterations, and the author journeyed a long way in order to understand the prevailing apathy in relation to the public space in her own society. The combination of approaches—interviews with a number of those who participated on the regime change and were significant in shaping the memory regime of the new democratic regime in Slovakia, with a survey of news articles on the attitudes towards initiatives to remove the monuments of the past and a small probe into attitudes towards one such representation of the past—the bust of the president of late communist Czechoslovakia Gustáv Husák. The interweaving of the interviews and news articles into the survey of academic literature brings the topic alive and appealing.

The thesis could be further improved if the focus on the monuments was more prominent from early pages of the thesis—for at times this focus is lost, and the structure of the argument—relating the social roles to the prevailing attitudes people tend to have towards the symbols of the past formed a backbone of the inquire. The explanation of the social roles and their role appears rather late and more could have been done to establish the direct link the author is implying. The interviews could have been made even more central and a few more interviews would further improve the depth of the thesis.

But the thesis proposes an interesting and worthy argument that could serve as a ground for further research—a larger probe into inherited social roles in relation to the previous regime in Slovakia, in comparison with Czechia and perhaps other countries in transition, would surely be very fruitful, and would also allow for transregional comparisons with countries where such research has been conducted, mostly on African continent.

I recommend this thesis toward bachelor thesis defense in June 2023.

In Bratislava, on: August 15, 2023 (date)

Signature of evaluator: _____

