

Diploma Thesis Review

Gabriela Elisa Henz Hammes: *Analysis of Czech Diplomatic Career: How Do Czech Women Diplomats Perceive Themselves Inside the Czech Diplomatic Environment*

The thesis under review has its goal in exploring the fascinating and highly relevant topic of gender induced influences in the theory and practice of diplomacy. More specifically, the author tries to analyze the self-perception of female diplomats within the Czech Republic state service and various challenges and problems connected with women serving in the diplomatic corps. This kind of research is not only needed, but because the author utilizes primary data coming from interviews with Czech female diplomats she conducted, it also brings new, interesting and valuable information that cannot be found elsewhere.

After the introduction, the second chapter lays down the key theoretical foundation of the thesis, namely feminist IR theory. Third chapter deals with the work's methodology and description of the data used. Parts four and five include the main analytical part of the thesis and they are (based on the extensive interviews with female members of Czech diplomacy) devoted to women's career paths in diplomacy and their self-perception.

In general, G. Hammes wrote an informative and concise thesis, that deals with non-trivial problems, utilizing primary data from interviews of her own and thus contributing to the ever-growing body of works dealing with gender issues in studying international relations and politics. What I really like about the reviewed thesis is that she was able to engage the female diplomats not only to talk about the diplomatic work per se from women's perspective, but also the gender-based challenges to their personal lives, including various ways, how they might be overcome in the future. Also, the level of English writing of the thesis is up to high standard, never mind occasional typo or mistaken plural noun endings etc. Furthermore, the thesis under review uses sufficient number of secondary literature and other sources.

On the other hand, there are also some problematic aspects of the thesis:

- a) It is not clear from the introduction, what kind of study (methodologically) is the author going to perform. It only becomes clear in the second question, where the author claims that the thesis will be some sort of explanatory study but doesn't not frame its research methodologically further.
- b) It is not clear from the theoretical section, what approaches and why in particular are going to be used further in the work. This becomes problematic in the conclusion, where

I miss some sort of deeper discussion how the information gathered in the interviews shed some new light on the theoretical foundations of the thesis.

- c) Despite the identity of the women needed to be kept anonymous, I think the author could have provided more detailed information about them, together with time and place where the interviews were held.

Despite some of the problems in the above-mentioned points, I conclude this review by stating that G. Hammes work has all the necessary qualities for successfully written MA thesis and I thus recommend it for defense.

Hradec Králové, 16. 8. 2023

Mgr. Stanislav Myšíčka, Ph. D.