

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Eliška Votavová
Název bakalářské práce: Celebrating the Nation: The Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Festival of Britain (1951)
Vedoucí bakalářské práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, MA, PhD.

I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění:

1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem
2. ~~Cíl práce byl naplněn s drobnými nedostatky~~
3. ~~Cíl práce byl adekvátní, ale jen částečně naplněný~~
4. ~~Stanovený cíl nebyl naplněn~~

II. Struktura práce:

1. Logická, jasná a přehledná
2. ~~Přiměřená~~
3. ~~Uspokojivá~~
4. ~~Nevhodná~~

III. Práce s literaturou:

1. Výborná: zvoleny a použity vhodné prameny v patřičném rozsahu
2. ~~Velmi dobrá práce s adekvátními prameny v patřičném rozsahu~~
3. ~~Průměrná práce s literaturou~~
4. ~~Slabá, chybná nebo nedostačující~~

IV. Formální stránka:

1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům
2. ~~Obsahuje drobné formální chyby~~
3. ~~Nesplňuje některé zásadní požadavky~~
4. ~~Nesplňuje většinu stanovených požadavků~~

VI. Jazyková úroveň práce:

1. Výborná
2. ~~Velmi dobrá~~
3. ~~Dobrá~~
4. ~~Podprůměrná~~

VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu:

1. ~~Velmi vysoká~~
2. ~~Vysoká~~
3. ~~Střední~~
4. ~~Nízká~~

Vyjádření vedoucí bakalářské práce:

The thesis examines and compares the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the post-World War II Festival of Britain as major social and cultural events celebrating the achievements of the nation. Each of them presented a particular image of "Britishness", and thus helped to further (re-)shape the notion of national identity, or identities. This aspect is the central

focus of Ms Votavová's comparative analysis based on a detailed study of both events. Ms Votavová uses a wide range of secondary sources to describe both events in abundant detail, including some interesting, less known facts, such as the 1851 Exhibition's prompting the passing of new patent legislation. The theoretical section indicates most of the major differences and similarities, which are further discussed in relation to the concept of Britishness in the analytical part. The latter opens with an introduction of the concept of national identity although the definition of a nation is provided instead. Nonetheless, it emphasises the sense of belonging to a community as the basis of "inner identity" as opposed to national identity defined by citizenship. This is significant for the next part of the argument concerning the complexity of the concept of national identity, or identities, in the United Kingdom as a multinational state. As Ms Votavová's summary indicates, "Britishness" may be understood and felt very differently by different individuals. What I miss in this section is at least an attempt to outline some of the main facets that are generally assumed to characterise "Britishness", which would be a good starting point for the following comparative section. This brings a comparison of selected defining features of both events, such as the international vs national dimension, and the related representations of nations of the British Empire and the regions of the UK, respectively. Compared to the extensive theoretical part, the practical section feels somewhat underdeveloped and rushed. The comparison prevails to be polarised throughout with limited synthesising view on how the self-conception and self-image of the nation shifted (or not) across the century and beyond. On the other hand, Ms Votavová describes well how "Britishness" was defined in juxtaposition to "the other", which also changed with time and circumstances. She is also correct to point out that despite the emphasis on unity and cohesion, the notion of Britishness, and especially Anglo-Britishness, has been far from inclusive, referring to the visible absence or marginalisation of substantial segments of British society, most notably women and the immigrant population.

Overall, this is a very good thesis written in excellent English, very informative and readable. Ms Votavová worked almost entirely independently, showing excellent research and referencing skills. There are occasional accuracy issues, such as misplaced articles and wrong prepositions, some typos and punctuation errors. There are only very few minor inconsistencies in references.

Práce splňuje základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. According to Conekin, the fact of Britain's being an island nation has been central to the idea of Britishness and the notion of national identity. Can you explain whether this aspect was included in the image of the nation presented by the events, and if so, how?
2. The film *Family Portrait* mentioned in section 8.6 is an excellent illustration of the highly nostalgic and idealized image of the nation promoted by the Festival of Britain. Can you briefly summarize and comment on it? (Full version is available on www.archive.org.)

Podpis vedoucí bakalářské práce:.....



Datum:

27.7. 2022