

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Zdeněk Říha
Název bakalářské práce: Great Britain and its World Domination Story: A Reassessment
Vedoucí bakalářské práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, M.A., Ph.D.
Oponent: PhDr. Christopher Koy, M.A., Ph.D.

- I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění: 3. Cíl práce byl adekvátní, ale jen částečně naplněný
- II. Struktura práce: 1. Logická, jasná a přehledná
- III. Práce s literaturou: 1. Výborná: zvoleny a použity vhodné prameny v patřičném rozsahu
- IV. Formální stránka: 1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům
- VI. Jazyková úroveň práce: 2. Velmi dobrá
- VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu: 3. Střední

Vyjádření vedoucího bakalářské práce:

The claim by Stuart Laycock, made in his 2012 book, *All the Countries We've Ever Invaded: And the Few We Never Got*, might have been exactly quoted and cited, given the importance this claim exerts on the general goal of this study. In his definition of "invaded" Laycock included „if a military incursion was achieved through force, the threat of force, or by negotiation or payment“ (https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/britain-invaded-90-per-cent-of-worlds-countries-study/articleshow/17099980.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst) which Mr. Říha failed to mention. The sentence reads **“Great Britain has invaded almost 90 per cent of the world's countries in its history”** (this wording differs from what Mr. Říha writes on p. 11). Ultimately, though, the dispute between the conclusions of Mr. Říha and Mr. Laycock, it would seem to me, is no real dispute of historical facts but of mere definitions, most especially though not exclusively (see below), the stated (different) definitions of “invaded” applied by Mr. Laycock and by Mr. Říha. From a different understanding of what constitutes an invasion accordingly comes a different conclusion. Therefore, I will, in this assessment, scrutinize the definition of “invasion” by Mr. Říha and the application thereof (rather than dispute the different results he has reached from Mr.

Laycock) since their distinct definitions of “invasion” is substantially (if not utterly) different, resulting in scores of invaded countries being excluded by Mr. Říha.

Most differences in results may be attributed less to *de facto* “invasion” than by whether the country later (i.e., after the invasion) became free/independent from Great Britain or subsequently from another (often former British colony or “possession”) independent country, a contention unlinked to the dictionary definition of “invasion” as cited by Mr. Říha. Bangladesh, a current country whose territory had clearly been invaded and occupied by the British Army, is excluded by Mr. Říha since Bangladesh gained independence from independent Pakistan, even though the invading British forces committed atrocities in this territory and survivors continue to reside there; they certainly would be able to state that a *de facto* invasion took place by the British Army and could probably document how it went down. Likewise, the territory of the country currently called South Sudan was invaded and occupied by the Major-General Charles George Gordon (who was knighted by Queen Victoria). He led war with the Muslim religious leader Mahdi, or Muhammad Ahmad under orders of British PM Gladstone, in which Gordon lost his life in 1885, as depicted in the world-renowned film “Khartoum” (1968) which reflected a gigantic debate about the colonization of Muslim countries (the “Mahdi” was the Osama bin Laden of the 19th century), so it is shocking to read that South Sudan was not invaded by Great Britain according to Mr. Říha ! He would need to divorce “invasion” from his obtuse linking of his definition of which (often) client-country the (“not invaded”) countries became independent countries from. Papua New Guinea becoming independent of the military of the client state Australia (whose head of state is still Queen Elizabeth II) is likewise disingenuous to serious historical thinking. This is to be explained clearly regarding the author’s country’s former state (see the paragraph below)

Another problematic dispute may be attributed to the definition of the word “country” as opposed to the word “state.” To give an understandable point here, the former state of Czechoslovakia consisted of two countries: Slovakia and what is now called the Czech Republic (and used to be called a part of Greater Moravia or the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia depending on which year you resided on this territory: can we say, applying Mr. Říha’s “invasion” approach, that (forgive me) Germany did not invade Slovakia just because the Soviet Union did so in 1968 and the country became independent from (oh dear!): the Czech-dominating Czechoslovak Republic.

Likewise, Great Britain, a state, consists of three distinct countries: England, Scotland and Wales. That is why these three countries compete against each other in the EU and Commonwealth sports championships. Northern Ireland is a part of the UK, but not of Great Britain. (I will not mention that most Scots hate being in the UK and GB after the numerous brutal invasions by England, but I’ll let that go today). Yet everyone interested in British history knows about the partition of Ireland in 1922, and that in 1690 the Battle of the Boyne (near Belfast) was a huge invasion and defeat of Catholic Ireland by the future King William (who held joint regency with his wife Queen Mary solely on the basis of this invasion’s victory over the last Catholic king of England, the so-called “Glorious Rev.” over King James II). Hence, Great Britain invaded Northern Ireland; a new addition for Mr. Říha’s list (Northern Ireland is erroneously considered a part of Great Britain) even by his own “invasion” definition. Under this definition, can today’s United States be regarded as having been invaded by Great Britain after Japan invaded Hawaii, Alaska and Oregon during WWII. I think not.

Above and beyond military or dictionary definition of invasion, there is my area of interest: culture. When in the U.S. media the talk of a British invasion was hyped, the reference was to how the Beatles, with their long hair and liberal attitudes, resulted in American youth

copying them in every way. In the best-selling novel ever written by an African, the novel *Things Fall Apart* refer to the British invasion of Christianity and cultural superiority of white civilization utterly destroying the culture of African tribes and the authority of African chiefs. Hence British Protestant missionaries "invaded" the world as well. Culturally it needs to be noted that borders change, as any Czech should know. Africa's borders were drawn up by colonial powers, often to divide the strength up of the colonized. Thus we can read in *Things Fall Apart* how Nigeria was purposefully drawing up borders to divide tribe and keep rival tribes within a colony so that Africans would fight each other rather than the colonizing British military forces; thus post-independence border changes and emerging new nations could still have been invaded by the British.

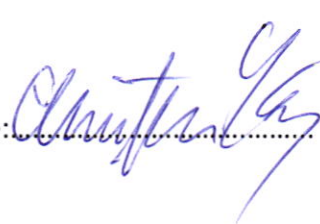
The quality of the writing, appropriate structure and obvious solid effort in writing this thesis provides my all-inclusive evaluation with a mark of very good (2).

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

Navrhovaná známka: velmi dobře

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. Regarding your understanding of history, did Rome invade England under your definition of „invasion“? (since both the Angles/Saxon/Jutes and the Normans under William the Conqueror subsequently invaded England)?
2. If you really stick to Stuart Laycock's definition of „invade“ without any changes, was he indeed accurate? (i.e., including aspects you had partially excluded – „if a military incursion was achieved through force, the threat of force, or by negotiation or payment“)

Podpis oponenta bakalářské práce: 

Datum: 12. 8. 2022

*nehodící se škrtněte