

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Eliška Sůrová
Název bakalářské práce: Elizabeth I and England's Conflict with Spain
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 discusses the conflict between England and Spain during the reign of Elizabeth I with special focus on the escalation in the 1580s leading to the decisive naval confrontation of 1588. In addition, it examines two pieces of legacy related to the events, Elizabeth's speech at Tilbury and her Armada portrait. Eliska Sůrová has managed to outline the complex situation of the outwardly bilateral conflict successfully, taking into account the political tensions between the great powers, especially France and Spain, the related power wrangles over the Low Countries, the religious divisions plaguing England and Europe alike,

as well as the personal relations between the rulers. Here, the marriage of Mary I to Philip of Spain, the relationship between Philip and Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's tragic affair with her Catholic cousin Mary Stuart stand out. Ms Šůrová also pays attention to the major military and naval figures on either side, most notably Francis Drake, Charles Howard and John Hawkins on the English side, and Juan Alonso de Guzmán, Duke of Medina-Sidonia on the Spanish side. However, it is false to claim that Francis Drake was the first person to circumnavigate the globe. I appreciate the discussion of the differences between the Spanish Armada and the English Navy, including the innovative efforts that led to important technical improvements in ship construction. While adverse weather conditions contributed markedly to the Spanish defeat, technological advancement played a significant role in the success of Elizabeth's navy. One of the, perhaps self-evident, outcomes of the conflict, which Eliška Šůrová does not discuss, is England's emergence as a naval superpower. Her attempt to analyse the Tilbury speech succeeds in pointing at the most important parts of her address, such as mutual trust, resolution and faith in victory as well as the gender aspect. Nevertheless, it stops short of a proper analysis and interpretation: why was the aspect of trust so urgent, or why is the gender issue foregrounded? On the other hand, Ms Šůrová makes a relevant comment regarding the divergence between rhetoric and reality with the Queen placing her trust in her troops and commanders to secure victory without her presence. For the sake of completeness, it would be worth mentioning the debate over the authenticity of the text recorded. The analysis of the Armada Portrait symbolism draws on existing interpretations, quite understandably. While it is hard to find anything new in the portrait, some contextualisation and comments on the queen's image could have been added.

The Conclusion sums up well the most important aspects of the situation, yet there are a few slips, or inaccuracies. Firstly, Philip strove to restore Catholicism, not Protestantism. The English did not summarise the differences between fleets (thus gaining advantages in battle), it was the author of the thesis in order to assess which one was stronger. And finally, I am not certain if it is known for sure that it was Elizabeth's actual intention to celebrate the victory by having a portrait made. (There seems to have been a great demand for Elizabeth's portraits after the defeat of the Armada though.)

The thesis is well structured and written in very good English. There are occasional accuracy issues, such as misplaced or missing articles, flawed "whether"/"if" usage or confusing syntax, and several typographical errors or inconsistencies (e.g. Hawkins/Hawkins). It demonstrates proficient use of secondary sources and appropriate referencing skills. I commend Eliška Šůrová's interest and engagement with the topic.

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

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. How would you explain trust featuring as such a major issue in the Tilbury speech? How does it reflect the relationship between the sovereign and her people, considering the turbulent events of the previous decades? What part did gender play in this relationship and how is it reflected in the speech?
2. How important was England's naval power for the future?

Podpis vedoucí bakalářské práce:.....



Datum:

17.5.2023