

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Michal Kovář
Název bakalářské práce: The Coronation of Elizabeth II and Its Representation in British Media
Vedoucí bakalářské práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, MA, PhD.
Oponent bakalářské práce: Mgr. Kateřina Klementová

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 the press representation of the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in a selection of UK newspapers. It begins with a brief biography of Princess Elizabeth and continues to explain the circumstances of her succession and the events preceding her

coronation. The Coronation Day and the ceremony itself are described in extensive detail, drawing on secondary literature as well as relevant institutional sources. The central part of the thesis brings a detailed examination of the June 2 & 3, 1953 issues of two major British daily papers (*The Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mirror*) and, subsequently, a more summative look at three national papers representing Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The differences between *The Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mirror* in terms of category and target audience are not explained at the beginning, nevertheless, it becomes obvious from the discussion of their contents, presentation strategies and reporting foci. In my view, paraphrased descriptions of the periodicals at the beginning of the respective sections would be more suitable than the verbatim quotations used. Overall, I cannot but appreciate the time and effort Mr Kovář devoted to the study and consideration of his primary material. Some of his interpretations may be questioned, especially when the newspapers' observations or claims are presented as actual states of affairs. An example is the strong statement that the comparison of the US and the USSR reports in *The Daily Telegraph* makes it clear that "both sides were happy about the Coronation and the new queen" (p.35). On a similar note, can we so firmly say that the Commonwealth countries featured in the paper "were loyal to Britain" (p.39), or are they (only) reported to show loyalty? On the other hand, Mr Kovář notes numerous interesting details and makes valid observations. He highlights the attention paid to Winston Churchill by the *Daily Mirror* (and also by the *Western Mail*), and the paper's dominating focus on the Royal Family, especially Prince Charles, adequately attributed to the paper's attentiveness to their readers' preferences, compared with *The Daily Telegraph*, which – again with their audience in mind – focused more on the day's historical and political significance. The additional look at a Northern-Irish, Welsh, and Scottish paper, respectively, reveals some other aspects apparently not found in the nationwide periodicals, most importantly attention to expressions of nationalistic and anti-unionist sentiments in Northern Ireland and Scotland. The Conclusion brings a comparison and evaluation of the newspapers' content and reporting strategies and priorities. It confirms the tendency to compare the new Queen to her sixteenth-century predecessor – an analogy made early on by Winston Churchill as mentioned in the historical overview, but it also notes the counterarguments voiced. The comparison is associated with the hope for a new period of prosperity and international prestige. Mr Kovář makes a worthy point by using the word "confidence" when assessing the ways of reporting in the studied papers. The Coronation was indeed seen by many as an expression of and reassurance about the nation's confidence amidst the country's post-war recovery, the ongoing decolonisation process, and the global rebalancing of geopolitical power. What I miss in the Conclusion is a more general summary of the British public's feelings about the event, the Royal family, and the monarchy. This would be most useful for a comparison with the current situation surrounding the recent coronation of King Charles III, referred to in the Conclusion.

This is a very good thesis written in excellent English, grounded in a thorough study of primary texts. Mr Kovář worked almost entirely independently, showing very good research and time management skills. His ability to assess the primary material from a critical distance improved significantly during his work. There are occasional accuracy issues, such as misplaced or missing articles, some capitalisation and punctuation flaws and a few typos. There are also occasional minor inconsistencies in referencing.

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

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. In retrospect, how does the "second Elizabethan age" compare to the first one? Did the 1950s hopes and optimism materialise?
2. Were any republican sentiments reported in the newspapers studied? Were any recorded at all?
3. Can you compare the situations of Elizabeth II's and Charles III's coronations from the point of view of the status and public perception of the Royal family and monarchy?

Podpis vedoucí bakalářské práce:..... Datum: 18.5.2023

