

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

Faculty of Political Science

Belgrade, July 2020

At the meeting of the Department of International Studies, held on 16 May 2019, the Master Thesis Defense Commission (hereby the Commission) for the candidate Emvalee Usawaprem was formed with the following members: Prof. dr Marina Simić, doc. dr Goran Tepšić and prof. dr Nemanja Džuverović. The Council for the Second and Third Cycle of Studies has accepted the proposal made by the Department.

After reading the master thesis, the Commission is submitting the following report.

## **R E P O R T**

The master thesis of Emvalee Usawaprem entitled "Understanding the Role of a Culture of Remembrance and Memorial Museums in Peacebuilding" has been conceived to observe the role of culture of remembrance in peacebuilding. Through an empirical observation, it asked if culture of remembrance facilitates a culture of peace. The paper comprises an introductory part, plus three chapters, i.e., literature review, methodology, findings and discussions, as well as conclusion.

An introductory section gives an overview of the study, in which the candidate described a background to the problem statement, illustrating what had sparked the idea that were later crystallized to form the research question. She discussed briefly about culture of remembrance in different societies as well as in the Balkans, looking specifically into its nationalist discourse of which exploitation of collective memory is apparent. It explained why understanding culture of remembrance's role is vital. Furthermore, it previewed what is covered in each chapter, offering readers a glimpse of what to expect in the paper.

Chapter 1 is a summary of existing literatures in relevant topical knowledge. The candidate compiled works on the two foremost subject areas of discussions for this study. Firstly, in the subject of memory and culture of remembrance, prominent writings were summarized and synthesized into four separate topics, namely, 1) memory and history; 2) culture of remembrance in memorial museums; 3) the "never again" message; and 4) war

photographs in museums. The second subject area concerns socialist legacies and peacebuilding in the Balkans. It contains existing researches and academic works on political landscapes of Yugoslavia and its legacies in remembrance culture in the region. They were presented in four different topics as follows: 1) coexistence of the people and disintegration; 2) destructive ideologies in pre- and post-war era; 3) toxic remembrance; and 4) landscape of Croatian memory.

Chapter 2 details methodological frameworks of the project. By choosing the mixed method approach, the researcher trusted that it would enhance the study's trustworthiness. Thorough descriptions of other aspects of the methodology were provided, including a research design, data collection and data analysis. She explicated how to access, gather and analyze data from a fieldwork at the Image of War Museum; explanations were put across separately for each source of data, viz. the museum's exhibition materials, a questionnaire survey and interview/testimonies of museum's producers. The researcher pinpointed rationale behind each selected procedure, i.e. the mixed method that combines qualitative and quantitative approach. The qualitative method was implemented through content analysis while the quantitative approach was applied with a questionnaire survey of museum visitors. Analytic strategies are laid out separately for each data source. These include descriptions of themes used for content analysis of the exhibition material and interview/testimonies. The chapter also covers details of a case study, that is, background information of the Image of War Museum that includes the institution's missions, how it was originated, arrangement of space and the exhibition that is the centerpiece of this research project.

The researcher presented her principal findings and discussions in Chapter 3. The first part of the chapter contains findings of the investigation, incorporated with visual aids of graphs and charts for easier understanding. Analyses of the questionnaire survey were demonstrated according to the questions that respondents were asked to answer. Investigated data obtained from the museum's photo collection were then exhibited, showing numbers of each detected themes. Likewise, data from interviews/testimonies of the curator and photographers were processed and displayed the same way. In the latter part of the chapter, these findings are examined and interpreted, using the aforementioned literatures in Chapter 1 as a point of reference. With all results yielded from the analyses, it culminated in overall findings, in which the whole data were construed interconnectedly, offering answers to the research question. Chapter 3 leaves the final part to comments and suggestions from the project. The researcher gave her perspectives on the project, purveying asides about what had been observed that was besides the main findings, along with limitations of the study.

This thesis finishes with Chapter 4, the concluding chapter which is a revision of what this research had elicited based on the completed observation. It features a recap of all works that had been carried out in this study and the most important part, a meaningful answer to the research question, which was extracted in two themes. The conclusion chapter is additionally dedicated to the significance of the research, elaborating its usefulness in both academic setting, particularly in peace studies, and civil society, as well as for any individual who might be interested in relevant subjects area of memory, culture of remembrance and peacebuilding.

The Commission is convinced that the candidate Emvalee Usawaprem has shown deep understanding of the nexus between culture of remembrance and peacebuilding. Also, the Commission is satisfied how the candidate has applied theoretical concepts in the empirical part of the paper and on the case study of the Image of War Museum. Based on this, the Commission concludes that the master thesis "Understanding the Role of a Culture of Remembrance and Memorial Museums in Peacebuilding" by Emvalee Usawaprem fulfils all the formal criteria for the public defence.

The Commission:

Prof. dr Marina Simić

doc. dr Goran Tepšić

Prof. dr Nemanja Džuverović