

**Historisches Seminar  
Osteuropäische Geschichte  
Prof. Dr. Martina Winkler**

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### Statement relating to the Allegations of Plagiarism, the Case of Prof. Dr. Martin Kovář

Before giving my opinion in this matter, I would like to declare that I am not in any professional or personal relationship with prof. Kovář. The same is true about the other individuals involved in this matter, in particular the three PhD-students. Also, I want to make clear that I am not a specialist in early modern British history.

In order to form an opinion in this matter, I had the opportunity to read the allegation of plagiarism as well as the studies published by prof. Kovář and the relevant publications by Barry Coward and Jeremy Black.

Three PhD-students have compiled evidence to prove that prof. Kovář has used material from other publications without quoting them properly. They work with actual passages from the text, plus footnotes, plus the register. They come to the conclusion that the accumulation of such cases in prof. Kovář's work cannot be called other than intended plagiarism.

Unfortunately, prof. Kovář does not accept these allegations. In his statement, he focuses particularly on the more formal aspects of the allegations, arguing that these aspects were exaggerated and inconclusive. It might in fact be problematic to use the name register in two books with a very factographic design, and it might not be too surprising that the same names appear.

Much more relevant and indeed dramatic, however, are the frequent overlaps within the texts. Apart from the paragraphs quoted in the original allegations, I have found many more overlaps

within the books *Stuartovská Anglie, Velká Britanie* and in the chapter on James I. While I have not examined these studies completely or even systematically, I stumbled on many passages in the texts showing that prof. Kovář has extensively adopted facts, entire arguments and paragraphs from Barry Coward's and Jeremy Black's (respectively Michael Jubb's) works without quoting them properly or even without quoting them at all. It is striking how often he has paraphrased the other authors, often so closely to the original that we have to speak of translations here, rather than paraphrases. Such paraphrases frequently use not only the same facts, but also the same style and choice of words, and often the same combination of observations within one sentence.

To give just one example out of many: Coward writes: "Unlike Elizabeth I., who mastered the technique of image projection long before the days of the modern public relations industry, James scorned the task of cultivating his regal popularity."<sup>1</sup> Kovář writes: "Na rozdíl od Alžběty I. Tudorovny, jež byla skutečným mistrem ve vytváření vlastního obrazu na veřejnosti, Jakub odmítal svůj obraz kultivovat."<sup>2</sup> In the overwhelming number of cases, these paraphrases (or often rather: translations) are not quoted in footnotes or indicated by inverted commas. While it is true that Barry Coward is mentioned in *Stuartovská Anglie* and in the chapter in James I., this happens in a manner which answers in no way to the actual extent in which his work (including his actual words and phrases) is being used here. The same is true about Michael Jubb,<sup>3</sup> who is quoted a few times in Kovář's study *Velká Britanie* (which, as I understand, is his habilitační práce). These quotations do not, however, indicate or legitimate Kovář's chapter on *Základní tendence hospodářského vývoje Anglie*, which is basically nothing more than a paraphrase, in many aspects even verbatim translation of Jubb's study. A student's work of this kind would clearly and unequivocally be graded as "failed".

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<sup>1</sup> Coward, Barry. *The Stuart age: a history of England 1603-1714*. London: Longman, 1980, p. 122.

<sup>2</sup> Kovář, Martin. "Jakub J. Stuart (1566-1625)". In *Lidé a dějiny*, edited by Miroslav Bárta, and Kovář, Martin. Praha: Academia, 2011, 257-290.

<sup>3</sup> Jubb, Michael. "Economic Policy and Economic Development". In *Britain in the age of walpole*, edited by Jeremy Black. Houndmills, Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1984, 121-144.

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Prof. Kovář's states that he intended to make Coward's work available to the Czech public. This claim, I am sorry to be this blunt, borders on the ridiculous. If this had been his intention, an explicit translation of Coward's work, marked as such, would have surely been appreciated.

From my perspective, we are clearly dealing with a case of serious plagiarism here, and I find it very difficult to assume anything else but intent. The only other explanation would be a striking lack of knowledge about the basic rules of scholarly conduct, something I have trouble believing in the case of a professor and high official of Karlova Univerzita.

I don't want to conclude without expressing my appreciation of the hard work and the courage displayed by Marek Jandák, Tomáš Konečný and Ondřej Crhák.

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