



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Hugo Kafka

Title: Russian integration into the liberal security order

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia, 2018

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	35
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	9
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The dissertation presents a finely argued, nicely researched and well structured examination of the failure to integrate Russia into the liberal international order after the end of Cold War. The author is well aware he is taking on one of the grand questions in the field, and has adjusted the focus accordingly, limiting it to cooperation (or the lack of it) between Russia and the West in three cases of conflict management – Bosnia, Kosovo and, as a control case, current situation in Syria. The resulting answer, i.e. that Russia's integration into the liberal order has overwhelmingly failed, may not be original, but it is supported here by clear factual proofs and sure arguments.

While the dissertation contains a respective chapter under such name, it does not exactly contain a rigid methodological matrix. It can rather be characterized as 'academic storytelling', describing in detail and complexity each of the three cases and, while doing that, drawing analytical conclusions based on the facts and their interpretation. As an exercise in methodological rigour the dissertation might not be strongest, but the author's analytical and interpretative acumen more than compensates for such a drawback. The only truly critical remark would thus concern the opening theorization that is based solely on Ikenberry's concept which has not been subjected to any examination in the form of a critical literature review.

### Minor criteria:

The aforementioned strengths of the dissertation would have had it harder to demonstrate themselves without the author's writing skills. The text is written in a fine academic language that is at the same time lively and analytically precise. Also due to a lack of any errors of writing or stylistic mistakes, and combined with otherwise meticulous care for the formal aspects of the text, it has been a pleasure to read it.

### Overall evaluation:

Despite a lack of a sophisticated theoretical basis and deep methodology, the dissertation manages to present a convincing, accurate analysis of a major issue in contemporary international relations.



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Suggested grade: **A**

Signature: