



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Wietse Straastma

Title: China's Maritime Lawfare in the South China Sea

Programme/year: MISS 2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	23
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	32
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	65
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	85



## **Evaluation**

### Major criteria:

This thesis examines the Chinese lawfare strategy in the South China Sea based on the assumption of law being an instrument rather than a constraint of state power. This is an interesting idea opening up a new dimension of the Chinese (expansionist) strategic culture. The thesis is well-grounded in the theoretical literature but I would still like to see the framework better crafted for the purpose of the analysis. Most importantly, while the empirical part offers a lot of valuable strategic insights the theoretical framework could combine the legal views with strategic insights.

Empirically, the thesis is strong while the overall depth underlines the analytical and argumentative character of the paper. The design is clear even if the theoretical part reads a bit as a textbook rather than a foundation for research. However, all critical notes must neglect an overall quality of the paper that offers both analytical relevancy and skilful style.

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### Minor criteria:

The thesis is very-well written, well-crafted and based on a rich resource base

### Overall evaluation:

Overall, this is a strong piece of research showing some smaller design deficiencies

Suggested grade: B

Signature: Vít Střítecký, Ph.D.