



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Kay Westenberger

Title: Germany's Commitment to Multilateral Military Operations: Comparing the Cases of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Libya

Programme/year: Master in International Security Studies (MISS), 2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	39
<i>Total</i>		80	76
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	95



Evaluation

Major criteria:

Meticulous, thorough, complex – these adjectives come to mind in evaluating Kay Westenberger's thesis. "By the book" would be another apt description. The thesis presents a wholesome argument in support of a theoretically founded assumption that strategic decision-making of a state is co-determined by its underlying cultural conditions. On the basis of recent cases of Germany's involvement in EUFOR DR Congo and its refusal to participate in the military operation against Qaddafi's regime in 2011, the author makes a strong case for considering strategic culture as a relevant (part of the) explanation of a state's strategic behaviour.

The thesis is very well structured and its argumentation flows smoothly from the initial expose of existing approaches to strategic culture through the characterization of German strategic culture in general and in connection to the two cases to the final evaluation. The case studies follow a unified structure, first presenting the decision-making process, then contemplating the effects of three factors – alliance politics, risk analysis and military feasibility. After considering and comparing the factors, the author concludes that a sustainable explanation of Germany's behaviour cannot be complete without factoring in the cultural elements forged in the re-establishment of German statehood after WWII, specifically multilateralism and pacifism.

Minor criteria:

The argumentation described above rests on a wide array of highly relevant sources which are abundantly quoted throughout the text which, in itself, is very well written, does not contain mistakes and ably serves the analytical purpose. The thesis is carefully crafted not only with regard to its content but also formally.

Overall evaluation:

Put shortly, this is an excellent thesis, carefully prepared, persuasively argued and with clear analytical conclusions, resting on a sound theoretical basis and methodological plan.



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Suggested grade: **A**

Signature: