



Diploma Thesis Evaluation

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

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Programme/year: **Master of International Security Studies, 2019**

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): **Jan Beneš**

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	75
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	94

Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis deals with an actual topic – German strategic culture. As Germany is strengthening its position in the international relations, the study of its behaviour is becoming more important. The relatively short existence of modern German strategic culture offers a serious academic challenge. The thesis deals with the challenge seriously well. The author proposes a logical and reasonable research questions - Why does Germany participate or not in a certain multilateral military operations and how does Germany participate in multilateral military operations? The methodology of the thesis is clear and proceeds from theoretical basis through empirical testing to the well argued



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conclusions. The theoretical basis is broad and sufficient. The author traced the concept of strategic culture in the IR thinking and provided the overview of the most important authors. I highly value the theoretical distinction of strategic culture between the „big theories“ of classical and neoclassical realism and constructivism. The German strategic culture is elaborated very well and with emphasis on almost all relevant authors. The author proved a good orientation in the matter and the ability to precisely describe the key components of German strategic culture. The choice of empirical testing is sound – both Congo and Libya represent a distinct events in the modern international relations. The tested assumptions are relevant and make sense both in academic and practical way.

I would prefer slightly more elaborated the links in the domestic politics that influence the decision-making process – the relationship between politics and administration, the link between diplomacy, military and politics. Th decision-making process could have gone beyond the „sequencing“ and focus also on the a) ongoing debate in the foreign policy and military circles b) role of the relevant domestic actors.

On the other hand, the author provided a very good analysis of risks and external dimension (impact on allies, etc.) of its decisions. The author then very persuasively describes the limits of rationalist explanations and brings into play the role of anti-militarist and multilateralist German strategic culture.

Overall the thesis represent a very well structured, methodologically and theoretically grounded work. The author offered a good insight into the German strategic culture.

Minor criteria:

The formal criteria are met. The source usage is broad, deep and relevant. Some of the abbreviations are unnecessary (like MFA), because they are almost not used. The Graphic on the page 34 is relatively useless, because it is used mostly only to document that the system of military deployment decision-making is institutionally complex.

Overall evaluation:

Overall the thesis represent a very well structured, methodologically and theoretically grounded work. The author offered a good insight into the German strategic culture.

Suggested grade: A

Signature