



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Bc. Jakub Pražák

Title: Weaponization of Outer Space: Double-Edged Blade of Dual-Use

Technology

Programme/year: BS, 2017/2019

Author of Evaluation (consultant): Prof. Nik Hynek, PhD

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	69
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	16
TOTAL		100	85



Evaluation

Major criteria and evaluation:

This is an interesting and informative thesis written on a pressing and important – both politically and strategically – issue of (limits) of inter-national/institutional cooperation within the Outer Space, as manifested by an analysis of weaponization prospects. Specifically, it aims at answering whether – and from which standpoints – the use of dual-use technology could change/factor in existing considerations of space weaponization and warfare. The author argues, and brings forward adequate evidence, that while the technology is mature enough, states are generally embracing restraint policy. Still, as he maintains, this could change in the future, as conflicts are likely to flare up, also due to greater complexity and density of interactions, as well as dual-use technology which hides some of its prospectively offensive capabilities due to its nature and legitimate presence/use. The thesis is very solid overall, contains convincing research design and legitimisation of research steps it subsequently performs. When it comes to limitations, I think that theoretical part could still be deeper, as much as the conceptualization/operationalisation of degrees of cooperations/restraint/competition. The general applicability of the theoretical approaches is slightly reduced contra expectations which shows a slightly disjoint thesis in the end.

Suggested grade: B1

Signature:

Nik Hynek