



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Jakob J. Gilg

Title: Local Self-Defence Militias as Counterinsurgents: The Possibility, Willingness and Rationality of Selective Violence against Insurgents

Programme/year: International Security Studies/2019

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): PhDr. Zdeněk Ludvík, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		80	70
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	90



Evaluation

Major criteria:

- author clearly formulates his hypotheses/research questions;
- author puts his research into a clearly chosen theoretical/conceptual framework which he consistently applies in the empirical/analytical part;
- the author is not only concerned with descriptive statistics, but uses the standardized QN method of inference statistics, which must be positively acknowledged; on the other hand, although the author incorporated the QL case study into his research, he should have proceeded in a somewhat more appropriate way, especially if the hypotheses have been relatively weakly validated by the QN method; it was possible to use the QL method of the most likely case: if the hypothesis is not confirmed, the whole theory is significantly contested (e.g. VNSA Bambara self-defense group *The Dozo* and/or VNSA Dogon self-defense group *Dan Na Ambassagou* quite reliably meet the author's LSDM criteria, see p. 19; it is more than likely that if the author had examined the above two organizations, the hypothesis would have been refuted).

Minor criteria:

- sufficient/appropriate literature and satisfactory source base;
- paper meets the formal requirements and style of a diploma thesis.

Overall evaluation:

I do not want to assess the paper negatively only because the hypothesis was not unequivocally validated, as is often the case. On the contrary, I emphasize the high level of the whole research and especially the author's "courage" and invention in formulating hypotheses and identifying gaps in knowledge about VNSAs. All this shows the author's interest and commitment for the issue, which I can testify from personal experience.

The paper would deserve further elaboration and refinement, and then its publication could be considered.

The paper meets the requirements of a diploma thesis. I recommend it for defense.

Suggested grade:

B

Signature:

Zd. Ludvík, m.p.