



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Piero Merlo

Title: **The Rise of China in the Global Energy Governance: An analysis of China's International Energy Policy**

Programme/year: Master in International Security Studies, 2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	19
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	25
<i>Total</i>		<i>80</i>	<i>49</i>
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	3
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		<i>20</i>	<i>15</i>
TOTAL		<i>100</i>	<i>64</i>



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis starts with an interesting and, indeed, intriguing idea: how does China's position in the international energy system change as a function of the continuous rise of the country as an energy producer and consumer? A specific subset in the form of the uranium market was selected, and such a perspective could indeed have served well to illuminate the broader issue. The author also shows a penchant for an interesting and detailed insights into the topic, and an apparent devotion to its understanding.

That being said, the thesis unfortunately fails to deliver on the promises it raises. First of all, its theoretical anchoring is too wide and fails to provide the thesis a clear analytical direction. It is not clarified how the concept of hegemony is supposed to work in the specific field of energy, neither is it explained why the Chinese position can now be treated as hegemonic. Secondly, no methodology is introduced – and it shows: the argumentation meanders, certainly producing interesting partial information, but not a coherent analytical narrative. The presentation of the issues feels scattered and anecdotal – a pity, given the authors apparent insight into the topic. Thirdly, as a result of a confused theoretical framework and missing methodology, there is no clear hierarchy of general issues or empirical phenomena that would be a necessary requirement for treating a complex topic such as the one in vogue.

Minor criteria:

The author needs to be commended for the breadth of the utilized sources. The style of the thesis, however, could have been improved, and so could its language – more attention to proper structuring and avoiding of grammatical and stylistic mistakes would have been helpful

Overall evaluation:

The thesis starts with a promising perspective on a hugely important and topical issue, but is only partially successful in forging a persuasive analysis from the starting premise. Failures at the level of conceptual anchoring and methodology undermine the original analytical intentions and limit the effects of the author's apparent fondness for and insight into the topic

Suggested grade: **D**

Signature: