



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Jana Samadová

Title: Foreign Aid as a Variable in the Equation of the War in Yemen

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia/2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Jan Daniel

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	18
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	27
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	53
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	8
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	71



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The evaluated diploma thesis offers a potentially very interesting take on the civil war in Yemen. Focusing on narratives of three different actors that are in some ways involved in the conflict presents an accessible way how to get to original findings and the author's ability to work with sources in Arabic language as well as good orientation in an extremely complex situation in Yemen are clear benefits for the quality of her analysis. Unfortunately, the thesis also suffers from several major shortcomings.

First, the theoretical part of the thesis introduces too many concepts and theories without properly connecting them together and explaining their value for the analysis. There is no need for lengthy description of Wendtian constructivism and the role of norms if author's main intention is to analyse how is certain crisis constructed by an actor. What is the added value of discussing the notion of collective identity formation and what function does it serve in the analysis?

Second, the methodological part of thesis is significantly underdeveloped. It does not properly bridge the theoretical concepts with the empirical analysis, and it does not prepare the tools for such analysis. This is unfortunate, because proper engagement with narrative or discourse analysis methodologies could prepare much better ground for empirical analysis, e.g. by devising clear categories which the analysis could work with (the conception of self, adversary, nature of the crisis etc.)

Third, while the empirical analysis contains number of highly interesting observations which prove author's good analytical skills, it is not very well structured and, potentially as a result of insufficient methodological framework, often seems rather intuitive than systematic. This makes a proper comparison much more difficult and potentially hampers more interesting and systematic conclusions.

### Minor criteria:

I do not see significant issues in this category. My only two points concern relying too much on only limited range of sources on constructivism and different periods used for analysis of different narratives. However, neither of these are as serious as some issues raised in the comments on major criteria.



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**Overall evaluation:**

The thesis has many strong sides ranging from the very interesting approach to the conflict in Yemen to author's analytical skills demonstrated in empirical part of the thesis and partially also in its conclusion. The thesis is thus a solid piece of empirical work. On the other hand, the theoretical and methodological parts of the thesis are of slightly lesser quality and prevent the thesis from reaching its full potential and perhaps, shedding a new light if not on the conflict in Yemen as such, then at least on the propaganda war which surrounds it.

**Suggested grade: C**

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dana'.