

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	The Relation Between the Military and Religion in the Political Regimes of Iran and Turkey
Author of the thesis:	Jifu Wei
Referee (incl. titles):	Martin Riegl

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 400 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background:

The submitted paper defines relatively ambitious goal to analyze different role of armies and religion in the political regimes of Iran and Turkey. The paper has explicitly stated hypothesis: *"the roles of religion in the regimes of Iran and Turkey are prominent but different, and the military forces of the two countries have shown their prominent but different roles in the regimes due to their different political environments"*, but no research questions is stated. Also the wording of hypothesis is somewhat problematic as the role of the Turkish army has been dramatically reduced over past few years (the true is it played an essential role since the foundation of the present-day Turkey) and also the political regime itself has undergone a significant transformation. Another problem is that the theoretical part of the paper does not clearly frame the research topic in any theory, although the author mentions the works of Huntington or Stepan (which is not listed in bibliography), but precisely defined theoretical framework is missing.

2) Contribution:

Having mentioned rather poor theoretical and methodological part, also the added value of empirical part remains rather unclear. Comparison of the role of armies and religion remains rather descriptive and thus provides limited value added. Also some statements are problematic, e.g. national independence of Turkey at the end of 19th c. (p. 1), giving Turkey as an example of western-style democracy (p. 4), (see rating by Freedom House), Turkey's regime is under the shadow of the military (p. 2).

3) Methods:

Methodological part of the paper is rather vague, the author mentions the use of comparative history in the context of the modernization, however the reader is left in doubts what criteria (legal/formal, political, informal practice) will be applied to analyze the role of religion and the army. So it remains unclear what the base for comparison except of general description of political development in both countries is.

4) Literature:

Additional theoretical works on modernization (Huntington or Stepan would be beneficial)

5) Manuscript form:

The thesis does not meet the formal criteria, scope is below the minimal (approx. 87 000 characters instead of 90 000) required length for master thesis (50 pages). It is also unclear why the author

repeatedly reverts to the thesis as an article (p. 3, 6). Also the grammar and stylistics is way below average (e.g. *the Iranian regime started from Islam*), sometimes it is difficult to follow the author.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20 points)</i>	5
<i>Contribution (max. 20 points)</i>	10
<i>Methods (max. 20 points)</i>	5
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	14
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20 points)</i>	5
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	39
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	F

DATE OF EVALUATION: June 9, 2020

Referee Signature