Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Enes Akdemir

Title: Post-Vilnius European Neighborhood Policy: The Case of South Caucasus

Programme/year: MAIN 2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Viera Knutelská, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	25
Total		*80*	50
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	10
	Style	**5**	3
	Formal requirements	**5**	3
Total		*20*	16
TOTAL		*100*	66

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Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis aims to analyse whether the evolution of the European Neighbourhood Policy can be better explained through neoliberal or neorealist assumptions. Unfortunately, this goal is not stated clearly and explicitly at the beginning of the thesis, and it is clear from the start that the author believes the post-Vilnius summit development to be better explained by neorealist approach.

While the theoretical chapter offers several relevant points from both theoretical traditions, the assumptions to be compared to reality are rather general and thus difficult to systematically analyse. The author chooses the congruence method, but the theoretical assumptions do not for the most part offer predictions of development but sum up possible theoretical explanations behind these developments. The empirical part offers many interesting insights but does not always follow the assumptions presented well.

Minor criteria:

The author overuses direct quotations. Grammatical errors are relatively common. Some references are missing data (place of publication, journal issues etc.).

Overall evaluation:

While the author presents an interesting picture, the methodological framework is weak, and some arguments are not well supported. Moreover, author sometimes strays from analysing the EU actions to arguments behind Russian and Caucasus countries behaviour, thus blurring the goal of the thesis. However, the thesis does fulfil the basic requirements and I recommend it for defence.

Suggested grade:

D

Signature:

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