



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Ervín Hausvater

Title: Mungiki in Kenya: From Religious Movement to Militia

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia, 2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): PhDr. Kateřina Werkman, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	38
<i>Total</i>		80	78
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	98



Evaluation

Major criteria:

In his thesis the author sets out to explore the nature and the numerous transformations of the Kenyan violent group Mungiki. The research questions and objectives are straight-forward and clearly formulated.

The author presents a well-informed review of the diverse approaches to classifying the violent non-state actors and acknowledges the limitations of attempting to fit organisations such as Mungiki within singular categories. Yet he succeeds in identifying the key motivations of the Mungiki in the different phases of its operations in order to highlight the moments of the groups' metamorphoses and identify the processes that informed them.

The author justifies well his methodological approach to fit the type of research and the objectives set in the paper. He applies explaining-outcome process-tracing as a tool to analyse the available information about the Mungiki and its transformations and presents an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the case.

Minor criteria:

The paper meets all formal requirements

Overall evaluation:

The author presented a clearly written and well structured paper. He justifies all the methodological and conceptual choices that he has made. The approach, together with clear questions and objective, allow the author to follow an argument throughout the paper, bringing together the findings neatly in the conclusion. The author offers an understanding of Mungiki and its transformation that goes far beyond the common explanations through variations of the state failure thesis.

I have a few minor reservations related to the way the findings are presented. Firstly, it might have been beneficial to structure the drivers behind the metamorphoses along at least two levels of analysis - the structural/state/external (such as informal repression) and group-specific/internal (such as Mau Mau ideology). Further, a graphic representation of the findings regarding each phase of the transformation would have made it easier to comprehend the complexity of the case. It also seems like a missed opportunity that the author chose not to attempt to formulate the transformative processes and its drivers in (at least a preliminary) theoretical model.

Suggested grade: A (excellent)

Signature: