



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Khalid Almesfair

Title: What could De Gaulle teach Qatar? A comparative analysis of the struggle for greater autonomy in Intra-Alliances

Programme/year: MISS 2020

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Tomáš Kučera

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	23
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	34
<i>Total</i>		80	62
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	3
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	17
TOTAL		100	79



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis provides an interesting insight into the foreign policy of Qatar and the relations within other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. While the objective of the analysis is clear and consistently pursued throughout the thesis, the central research question remains implicit. Nonetheless, to the benefit of the author I need to acknowledge the fact that at least individual chapters are framed by a series of subquestions (pp. 18 and 26).

The theoretical framework of this thesis takes a specific form. The author draws on the literature on alliances; nonetheless, for the analysis and policy recommendations is more important author's model of de Gaulle's foreign policy. In this comparative analysis, as the author calls it, Qatar's foreign policy is examined and assessed against de Gaulle's foreign policy. Although this is not the most conventional approach, this thesis proves its utility. The author succeeds in presenting a focused, clear, and insightful analysis. The result is, however, closer to a policy paper than to a scientific monography.

The thesis is particularly strong in its insight into the Gulf politics. Less convincing, however, is the model of de Gaulle's foreign policy. In particular, the author states categorically that de Gaulle was wrong in considering the Soviet Union a security-seeking actor (e.g. p.50) and uses this claim to prove that Qatar's rapprochement with Iran is wrong: "The Soviet Union continued its aggressive behavior towards Europe. Even after the fall of the Union, Moscow continued to seek influence in Europe for geopolitical reasons. So, Qatar may need to reconsider its strategy to meet the demands of GCC members." (p.50)

Minor criteria:

Stylistics and form deserves more attention.



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University in Prague

Overall evaluation:

Khalid's thesis is an interesting insight into the Gulf security relations. It draws on a wide range of sources, including interviews with diplomats and experts. Although the theoretical/conceptual framework is rather underdeveloped, the comparison with de Gaulle's policies proves its utility. The result, however, looks more like a policy paper than a scientific monography.

Suggested grade: C

Signature: