

**CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE**  
**Faculty of Social Sciences**  
**Institute of International Studies**  
**M. A. DISSERTATION MARK SHEET**  
**(Review)**

Student: **Ryan Day**

Program: International Area Studies

Title: **The 2016 Coup d'état Attempt in Turkey and its Impact in Kosovo: A Look into the Media Discourse Surrounding the 2018 Gülenist Extraditions and the Resulting Turkish-Kosovo Relationship.** 62 p. Master thesis. Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of International Studies. Prague 2020

Reviewed by:

**PhDr. Ondřej Žíla, Ph.D.**, Department of Russian and East European Studies, Institute of International Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

1. CONTENT AND AIM OF THE THESIS:

As the main aim of his thesis, Ryan Day decided to examine the ways in which the 2016 coup d'état attempt in Turkey resonated in the Western Balkans, more particularly in Kosovo. By focusing on Kosovo's case study, he analyzes Turkey's growing influence in the Western Balkans since the 1990s, considers the failed 2016 coup attempt in Turkey, and observes the anti-Gülenist campaign that directly interferes in domestic policies of Western Balkan countries. As the title indicates, the author is first and foremost interested in the aftermath of the 2016 Coup d'état. Therefore, based on the empirical evidence consisting of discourse analysis of Kosovar media publishing in English, Day demonstrates the ways Kosovar media presented Turkey's demand to deport suspected Gülenist from Kosovo with the help of Turkish intelligence on March 29, 2018.

2. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Ryan's project has a coherent structure divided into four main parts. In the first section, the author critically discusses literature and the used methodologies. The second part offers an important historical context on Turkish influence in the Western Balkans from the 1990s to the present day. The third depicts the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey and the potential role of the Gülenist movement in it. The last part analyzes media coverage on the deportation of Gülenists from Kosovo and the effects on the mutual relationship.

The primary aim is to answer the question of how the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey resonated in Kosovo. To analyze this question, Day employs a social-constructivist approach by which he discusses the local as well as international media discourse with particular focus on the 2018 Gülenists extraditions.

Ryan Day offers an in-depth description of the growing Turkish presence in Kosovo and demonstrates the increasing dependence of Kosovo on Turkish investments. The thesis is based on rich empirical evidence that is quite extensively discussed. It is theoretically grounded in the concept of the hard and soft power that Turkish government has been using since the 1990s. The author demonstrates the striking differences in using the Turkish soft and hard power in Kosovo's case study.

### 3. PRESENTATION AND STYLE:

I have no critical remarks regarding presentation and style. Language and syntax quality are suitable. There are just a few errors, especially typing errors.

### 4. COMMENTS:

In general, I find Ryan Day's thesis structurally well established, coherent, and solid, making an important contribution to the Balkan/post-Ottoman studies, and is based on a wide range of sources.

The only critical remark I have is related to the most important chapter focused on discourse analysis. Although Ryan Day thoroughly discusses the overview of the Gülenist deportations from Kosovo in this chapter, I assume that it would be more useful to incorporate excerpts of the discourse used in the Kosovar media in their entirety to give us a deeper insight. Also, Ryan Day does not give us more details about which materials (newspapers, websites, policy papers) he analyzed and in which period of time. He uses a limited number of articles in Kosovar media focused on the 2016 coup attempt aftermath in his thesis. This fact, even though logical due to the author's unfamiliarity with the Albanian language, reveals thesis limitations as the sample used appears somewhat random. Ryan Day can thus ground his research only in those scarce sources he had found on the internet. Furthermore, it would be more compelling to include his findings from the discourse analysis into his final discussion in conclusions.

### 5. QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:

How does your case study fit into a broader discourse on Turkish soft power?

To what extent has the approach of Erdogan's Turkey towards the Western Balkan countries, and Kosovo especially, changed since the 2016 coup d'état?

### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

I recommend Ryan Day's thesis with a proposed assessment of A.

Date: Prague, August 29, 2020

Signature: