



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Daria Korobkova

Title: Russian World? Protection of National Minorities Abroad as a Component of Russia's Foreign Policy

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia, 2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	30	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	37
<i>Total</i>		80	72
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	91



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis focuses on one of the most relevant themes in contemporary international relations – e.g. Russia’s motivation for its behaviour vis-à-vis other actors. Especially after the Russian aggression against Ukraine, there has been a persistent effort to understand why Russian leadership chose that particular course of action. The author artfully adds to the understanding of Russia’s motives by focusing on one of the concepts used (and abused) by Moscow’s propaganda and, more broadly, its foreign policy apparatus – the so called ‘Russian world’. With a deep excavation of its historical origins, the authors explains several possible meanings of the term, then operationalizes it by focusing on the issue of Russian diaspora abroad and its role in Russia’s foreign policy.

The author builds her understanding on the basis of a broad, deep and complex analysis of existing literature and primary sources – the scope thereof is truly admirable and above average for a master-level dissertation. The thesis states its objectives and clearly formulates its research questions at the beginning, then proceeds in a nicely structured way towards answering them. The summarization of the answers is convincing and attests to the author’s analytical acumen.

The only query that I still have, despite the author’s rigorous and thorough approach to consultations during the dissertation’s preparation, is whether and how the ‘Russian world’ as an analytical tool can be linked to the existing literature on national or state identity – or, more broadly speaking, to the ever-expanding social constructivist canon in the analysis of international relations and foreign policy.

Minor criteria:

As noted above, the scope of sources utilized in the thesis is impressive. References to the sources are frequent and used correctly. The thesis is written in an appropriate academic style and still remains accessible and, generally, a nice read. The overall positive impression is further underscored by an apt use of graphs and visualizations.



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Overall evaluation:

The author has pulled of a difficult task of finding a fresh perspective one of the major topics in contemporary international politics. She has done so in a thorough, analytically rewarding manner, coupled with keen attention to structure and formal detail.

Suggested grade: **A**

Signature: