

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

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| Student Matriculation No. | Glasgow 2409675 DCU 18114296 Charles 50089755 |
| Dissertation Title | Cruise Missile Proliferation in the Iran-Israel Regional Security Conflict: The Overlooked Offense-Defense Arms Race |

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Reviewer 1 Initial Grade Select from drop down list | Reviewer 2 Initial Grade Select from drop down list | Late Submission Penalty no penalty |
| Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail) | | |
| Word Count: 23,949 Suggested Penalty: no penalty | | |

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).

Before Penalty: B2 [16] **After Penalty:** B2 [16]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

| Assessment Criteria | Rating |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| A. Structure and Development of Answer | |
| This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner | |
| • <i>Originality of topic</i> | Good |
| • <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i> | Satisfactory |
| • <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i> | Good |
| • <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i> | Good |
| • <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i> | Satisfactory |
| B. Use of Source Material | |
| This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner | |
| • <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i> | Very Good |
| • <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i> | Very Good |
| • <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i> | Very Good |
| • <i>Accuracy of factual data</i> | Very Good |
| C. Academic Style | |
| This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner | |
| • <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i> | Excellent |
| • <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i> | Excellent |
| • <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i> | Excellent |
| • <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i> | Yes |
| • <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i> | Not required |

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- *Appropriate word count*

Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

The dissertation tackles the problem of the proliferation of cruise missiles in the Middle East. The theory of regional security complexes provides an analytical framework, whereas the Iranian-Israeli rivalry serves as a case study. The analysis focuses on a regional perspective on security. The dissertation offers a nuanced and detailed insight into the problematique of cruise missiles proliferation. The case study analysis - chapters 2 and 3 - is rich in the description of the Iranian-Israeli conflict and provides a detailed overview of offensive and defensive systems in possession of both states.

The dissertation's fortes notwithstanding, a more analytical focus would have strengthened it. The regional security complexes theory is introduced but employed only to a limited degree. The review of Israel and Iran's weapons does not pay enough attention to reasons behind the arms race dynamic. The dissertation would have benefitted from more extensive engagement with the security dilemma in the context of Iranian-Israeli arms race. There is too much speculation on WMD and future weapons systems. The links between particular chapters would have strengthened the dissertation's argument.

Minor remarks:

- abbreviations need to be given in full when used for the first time (p. 5)
- proofreading would have helped avoid grammatical mistakes
- a table comparing Iran and Israel's arsenals would have be useful
- Chapter 1 could have included literature review and theoretical framework (rather than singling them out as distinct sections)

Reviewer 2

This is a fairly interesting account of the development of cruise missiles as key weapons in international conflicts and, in more details, of how their proliferation is being driven by regional rivarlies in the Middle East, with particular reference to the Iran-Israel conflict.

The dissertation addresses a topic which is highly pertinent to the programme, it is well organized, accurately researched and well structured. The students certainly demonstrates that the Iran-Israel conflict in the Middle East is a major driver to the proliferation of cruise missles acquisitions, also taking into account the role of proxy wars and non-state actors.

The only side that partly penalises this dissertation is a lack of theroretical engagement. The student uses Buzan and Wæver's Regional Security Complex Theory to justify the focus of the research and case study, but s/he does not take advantage of the research to critically engage with the theory. Did the case study explored bring anything to light that is not consider in B&W's theory? Can you make any suggestions for improvement, refinement given your findings? There I found the dissertation to be limited in scope. Indeed, if the studey had not mentioned RSCT at all, but only employed arm race theory, it would have probaly reached the same findings.