



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Bc. Vojtěch Podhorský

Title: Conflict Dynamics in the Power-sharing Postconflict States

Programme/year: Security Studies / 2021

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Mgr. et Mgr. Jan Ludvík, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	25
<i>Total</i>		80	58
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	78



Evaluation

Major criteria:

This thesis addresses an important issue and draws from extensive literature. While I think this is a relatively strong thesis, I believe a few changes would have made it even stronger.

- Most importantly, I think the thesis needs more conscious analysis and more interpretation. It appears as if the thesis consisted of three loosely related parts: 1) description of two power-sharing models, 2) description of Lebanon's political development, 3) description of Burundi's political development.
- The communication between the theoretical and empirical parts is relatively weak. A reader can see what happened in Lebanon and Burundi. However, I would like to see more in terms of how the power-sharing model influenced the conflict dynamics. Showing that a country has some power-sharing model and that something happens at the same time does not mean it happened because of the power-sharing model.
- I appreciate how informed are the descriptions of both power-sharing models. However, I am still unsure what these models are. I think the conceptual delimitation of the two models would benefit from more synthesis. A reader can see what many authors wrote about consociational model and centripetal model. Yet what is the synthesis? I believe a definition or one-paragraph summary saying 'this is consociational model, the model has these characteristics, and this is how you can distinguish consociational model from something else' would be really beneficial.
- I also think it would be beneficial to explain how - in theory - the power-sharing models impact the conflict dynamics and how the conflict dynamics impact the power-sharing model. In other words, what does the theory expect about power-sharing in general?

Minor criteria:

The thesis uses more than adequate sources, it is readable and maintains the appropriate style and formal requirements.



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Overall evaluation:

Overall, I think this is a good thesis, but not an excellent one. It is empirically robust but needs more continuous analysis and more interpretation. The thesis describes too much and analyzes too little. Even the theoretical part is, in fact, empirical. It does not theorize but describes what others wrote about the concepts. Operationalization of the relationship between power-sharing and conflict is implicit at best. I believe this is a pity. Vojtěch demonstrates he knows a lot about both power-sharing models and his cases. The pieces, however, do not work very well together. This would have been an excellent thesis had it been able to provide linkages.

Suggested grade: C

Signature: