



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Eline Beijnsens

Title: Strategy of Survival: The Resilience of the Assad Regime

Programme/year: International Security Studies 2021

Author of Evaluation (~~supervisor~~/external assessor): Mgr. Vojtěch Bahenský

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	2
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	34
<i>Total</i>		80	61
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	18
TOTAL		100	79



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The main issue of the thesis is its lack of a clear research question/goal. The introduction arrives at some general discussion of what the thesis will be about only after several pages. Possibly as a result, the thesis does not hold together very well and parts of it seem like an afterthought rather than pre-planned integral part of the research (especially chapters 3 and 4). Coincidentally, the end of chapter 2 would appear as a better conclusion than actual conclusion of the thesis. The second chapter is also the best part of the thesis, combining well presented theoretical concepts and frameworks with analysis. While the analysis is generally sound, it often seems to stretch the elaborately introduced concepts to the limits and has difficulty empirically distinguishing conceptually different practises – something that is acknowledged in the conclusion of the chapter but could have been pursued further.

Minor criteria:

The thesis is generally well written, but suffers from often confusing structure, both with respect to the ordering of chapters and within paragraphs. The same information is often repeated (e.g. page 26 – twice repeated information about efficacy of negotiated settlements). Overall structure mixing empirical analysis and theoretical concepts was rather unhelpful, as the first chapter already uses concepts that are only theoretically introduced later. There are also two rather glaring repetitions in the text, namely chapters 2.1 and 2.2 which are identical, and bibliography, which is somewhat puzzlingly at the beginning of the thesis, as well as at the end.

Overall evaluation:

While the thesis has its strong aspects, especially well presented theoretical framework of authoritarian conflict management, a lot of other theoretical concepts and analysis lacks strong overarching framework linking and holding the thesis together. The lack of a clear research goal and presentational shortcomings discussed above, unfortunately, hold the thesis back. Given the borderline points score, it is imaginable to also grade the thesis with better marks, depending on the defence.



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Suggested grade: C

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ry'.