



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Luca Marius Lutz

Title: African Early Warning Systems: Challenges and Prospects for African Security Integration

Programme/year: International Security Studies, 2021

Author of Evaluation (opponent): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	30	23
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	29
<i>Total</i>		80	59
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	17
TOTAL		100	76



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The dissertation presents an interesting topic – the interaction of early warning mechanisms and intelligence governance in Africa. Dissecting the topic to three levels of analysis (continental, regional and national), and in combination with a wide array of sources, it provides a detailed and complex insight into the subject matter.

Despite the author's attempt to anchor the empirical analysis in the theory of the regional security complexes, the conceptual aspect of the dissertation is weak. The theory is presented in rather general terms and, more importantly, its alleged significance for the subject matter is not clearly explained. Nor is it linked to the empirical part of the dissertation through any particular methodology that would demonstrate the contribution of the theory to the empirical analysis. As a result, the tackling of the topic is largely descriptive. At the national level of analysis, it is also quite vague, attempting to encompass an issue that would require a thesis of its own – authoritarian intelligence government – in one chapter.

Minor criteria:

The author tackles the topic clearly, in a structured manner and in an appropriate language. There are occasional typos and writing or stylistic errors, but these do not have a major effect on the overall positive impression from the text.

Overall evaluation:

Though only seemingly theoretical and partially marred by a too broad expanse of its focus, this is a rigorously structured, well researched and highly informative dissertation.

Suggested grade: **C**

Signature:



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