



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

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Title: 5G Security – A Case Study on the Securitisation of Sweden’s 5G Networks

Programme/year: ISSA, 2020/21

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Supervisor

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	36
<i>Total</i>		80	71
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	91



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The work offers solid research question that is in line with the direction of the research and that is well integrated into the overall structure. Research question's subdivision serves as the foundation for relevant chapters (and subchapters of the research). Objectives of the work are clearly defined and are overall in line with the research question. Conceptual and theoretical frameworks are aligned, the use of Idea Analysis approach is justified. Key arguments are in line with the theoretical approach. It would make sense to expand a part of the work discussing implications of securitisation with a focus on how securitisation is related to security of the 5G networks.

Minor criteria:

The work offers excellent balance of sources (which are both secondary and primary blended to achieve declared goals). Style and formal requirements are met.

Similarity percentage is 10%, report is available here:

<https://secure.urkund.com/view/105916058-115967-879163>

Overall evaluation:

This work analyses a relatively new perspective on cyberspace security. The work looks at how Sweden attempted to deploy fifth-generation networks using technology supplied by Chinese companies. The focus of the thesis is on how doubts about the reliability and security of Chinese technology led to the reversal of the decision to allow Chinese companies to participate in laying down the 5G network infrastructure in Sweden.

The main research question is inquiring in which way Swedish state agencies have been key players in the securitisation of Chinese technology. The focus and scope of this work contributes to an important and much-needed discussion of why the deployment of the fifth-generation mobile networks is not just a technical issue, but also a political one. Along with it, the thesis asks how China's increasing influence has affected the Swedish government's viewpoint on the participation of Chinese companies in infrastructure construction in the country.

The work is well structured — offering a detailed literature review, the thesis establishes theoretical and methodological frameworks that set the stage for the analysis. The work attempts to understand whether the narrative that exists in



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Western government circles about Chinese telecommunication companies' links to the Communist Party is the main reason for the Swedish government's decision to reject their services.

One of the key areas this study focuses on is the blurred line between the interests of government agencies and availability actual research on the use of Chinese technology for hostile purposes. The literature review does a good job of identifying gaps in existing literature and directs the work to address those gaps.

We learn about the factors that contribute to the limitation of use of Chinese technology. Some parts of this thesis can be improved. Classical methodology is replaced by the analytical strategy which adopted Idea Analysis technique for carrying out this research. While this provides solid foundation for investigating research problem, it would be good to expand further on the link between securitisation theory and how this affects security of the state using 5G network equipment supplied (and in some cases operated) by Chinese companies. So far this is a grey zone where not much is discussed. The work provides excellent analysis of securitization process. However, it would be important to expand it, and perhaps blend with what it means for security of Sweden in a broader context. What security implications it has on the country's digital domain, if it is more secure without Chinese companies involved in country's critical infrastructure. It would also be useful to broaden the discussion as to why China has become the target of securitization in the context of Sweden's relations with allied countries in Europe.

Overall, this is very well-done research.

Suggested grade: A

Signature: Dr David Erkomaishvili