



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Amerigo Piunti**

Title: **Analysis of ISIS's Insurgency through the theory of Revolutionary Warfare**

Programme/year: International Security Studies/2021

Author of Evaluation (second reader): prof. Oldřich Bureš

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	29
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	33
<i>Total</i>		80	70
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	89

Evaluation

Major criteria:

The reviewed thesis primarily offers an analysis of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria via the lens of Mao Tse-tung theory of Revolutionary Warfare. Secondly, it aims to offer COIN recommendations based on this analysis.

The thesis is well structured and written when it comes to addressing the primary aim, less so when it comes to addressing the secondary aim. The thesis first reviews the relevant literature and the empirical chapters follow the key criteria distilled from Mao Tse-tung's theory of Revolutionary Warfare. Only some parts are a bit too descriptive and repetitive, i.e. the catalogue type definitions in the introduction and overlapping discussion of the stages of insurgency in sub-chapters 2.2 and 2.3.



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The thesis has a suitable theoretical framework which is actually utilized in the empirical chapters. The author has managed to find, read and incorporate key insights from the booming literature on both ISIS and insurgency.

The methodology is rather crude when it comes measuring the level of adherence to Mao Tse-tung's theory of Revolutionary Warfare, with just three very broad levels. However, for a qualitative research design based on desk research only, one cannot expect a more precise scale.

The thesis conclusion is unusual. Policy recommendations are fine but unlike in a policy report, the thesis should conclude with key findings directly addressing the stated research question/s. The sub-question related to COIN is not really addressed in the thesis before the conclusions. Similarly, placing the entire discussion of Boko Haram in the conclusions of a thesis on ISIS in Iraq and Syria is unusual. New information/topics/issues should not be included in the conclusions only.

Minor criteria:

There are minor stylistic and grammar issues throughout the thesis.

Overall evaluation:

Overall, the thesis certainly meets the standard criteria for this type of academic work.

Suggested grade:

B1

Signature:

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