



Posudek na diplomovou práci

Autor/ka práce: Nicholas Roy Arthofer

Název práce: Coal and Conflict in Eastern Ukraine

Obor/Rok: 2022

Autor posudku (vedoucí/oponent): Jan Mazač

Kritéria	Definice	Max. bodů	Získané body
Hlavní kritéria			
	Výzkumná otázka, formulace problému	10	3
	Teoretický konceptuální rámec	30	25
	Metodologie, analýza argumentace	40	25
<i>Celkem</i>		80	53
Vedlejší kritéria			
	Zdroje	10	10
	Styl	5	2
	Formální kritéria	5	5
<i>Celkem</i>		20	17
CELKEM		100	70



Slovní hodnocení:

Hlavní kritéria:

The thesis aims to analyse the behavior of actors from the Donbas region of Ukraine involved in the ceasefire set by the Minsk II protocols. Overall, I find the topic very relevant, and as an armed conflict in the Donbas region is still in progress also topical and worth studying. The thesis and its parts correspond with the requirements. However, the thesis contains many deficiencies related to the research design, which I consider disorganised. Unfortunately, some parts of the thesis are hard to follow.

Although the author initially defines the problem of ceasefires in general, he does not use it as a starting point to further establish the process of developing a research question that addresses the issue. There is no clear delimitation in the thesis of what the author intends to investigate, i.e., the author does not clearly and explicitly formulate any research question. As this essential element of research is missing, I had a hard time grasping the aim of the study and was not certain about what the author intended to do. If I am not mistaken, the work aims to analyze the separatist region's behavior involved in the ceasefire set by the Minsk II protocol and discover whether its behaviour was rational. However, I'm afraid that's not right. The research question should be clearly stated initially, not the other way around, demanding the reader deduce it from bits and pieces scattered in the text.

Regarding theoretical selection, the author underpins his understanding of behaviour in IR by realism and presumes that actors are self-interested and rational. The delimitation of the central concept such as military, economic, and social power, or relative power is sufficient and understandable on how these specific concepts and factors in the research are associated with one another.

Empirically, the author works with macroeconomic indices such as expenses and incomes. Here, I was again confused as I would appreciate a better organization of the text and a clear definition of his method at the beginning of the chapter. It would help guide the reader through this part. On page 30, out of the blue, he compares value #5 and value #6. Unfortunately, nowhere in the text is defined what these values are. Besides, the rationale behind the testing of hypotheses was not fully intelligible to me. If I understand it correctly, the author assumes that the separatist region's relative power decreases if the budget deficit increases after the Minsk II agreement. Then, violation of ceasefire is rational, and vice versa. I wonder why the author downsized the verification on the evaluation of economic power only as he also defined military and social power at the beginning of the thesis. By doing so, he omits other essential factors influencing the behavior of separatists. Thus, I would suggest explaining it during the defence better.



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Vedlejší kritéria:

The thesis corresponds with the requirements. The writing style and grammar are satisfactory. However, better proofreading would avoid few typos in the text.

Celkové hodnocení:

Overall, despite some issues, I find the topic relevant and the master's thesis itself promising. The thesis and its parts correspond with the requirements. I appreciate that the author attempts to elaborate on current research further and fill the identified gap. The author also realises the limitation of his study in data estimates for separatist region, which might have impacted or influenced the findings. However, as described above, the thesis contains substantial deficiencies, mainly related to the disorganised research design.

Výsledná známka:

D

Podpis:

Jan Mazač