



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Jan Strnad

Title: French counterinsurgency: case study of Mali

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia/2021-22

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): PhDr. Zdeněk Ludvík, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	38
Total		80	76
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
Total		20	19
TOTAL		100	95



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The diploma candidate clearly defines a research question; he links established theoretical concepts with empirical material and argues convincingly.

Minor criteria:

The diploma candidate uses adequate and high quality literature. The paper meets the formal requirements and style of a diploma thesis.

Overall evaluation:

I consider the work very well done. The diploma candidate has chosen a very special topic, but in his case it is not at all a disadvantage, because he is excellently equipped for it – both in knowledge and skills.

Moreover, although from the perspective of the globalised and anglophone discipline of Security Studies the research question posed by the diploma candidate appears to be, shall we say, secondary, from a non-American centric/non-British centric point of view, it is quite fundamental. A vision of French exclusivity (within the *mission civilisatrice*) is still at the centre of the French public's attention, including the professional one. To this end, I provide below (mainly to draw the attention of the diploma candidate himself) a link to a text that precisely debates the question of a French COIN school (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/48605785>).

I appreciate that the diploma candidate did not just stick to the academic literature, but used "counterinsurgency army manuals" of both American and French provenance.

The paper is extremely fresh, readable, the diploma candidate minimizes the "theoretical-methodological complex" to the necessary level; however, just enough so that it cannot harm the professional quality and, on the contrary, it can strengthen the aforementioned freshness and readability. These are reinforced by a sound structure which is logical and reader-friendly.



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By compiling this paper, the diploma candidate clearly demonstrates that he has certainly not been wasting his time in his studies and has acquired a very solid (and I am convinced not only) author's competence. I believe that the paper (properly shortened and translated into French) could aspire to be published in a francophone scientific journal.

Automatic check for plagiarism evaluated: matches marginal and completely irrelevant (direct quotations, bibliographies, etc.).

Suggested grade:

A

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'L. J. J.' or similar, written in a cursive style.