



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Jan Strnad

Title: French counterinsurgency: case study of Mali

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia, 2022

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	67
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	3
	Formal requirements	5	3
<i>Total</i>		20	14
TOTAL		100	81



Evaluation

Major criteria:

In his dissertation, the author poses a logical question: has the conduct of French counterinsurgency operations been influenced by its army's cooperation with the US forces during their long joint engagement in Afghanistan? In other words, has French counterinsurgency, shaped and informed by strong historical influences like David Galula's, become more 'American'?

The author tackles the question by looking at the nature of French counterinsurgency warfare in its two autonomous missions in Mali, specifically operations Serval and Barkhane. By dissecting various aspects of these deployments, he assesses major underlying principles of the missions, eventually disproving the hypothesis of assimilation of French counterinsurgency to the US paragon.

The dissertation is not rooted in a specific theory, but relies on a solid understanding of the main principles of counterinsurgency warfare, based on both official doctrines of the states under review, and academic writing thereon. The resulting analysis is not necessarily complex, but the combination of a straightforward question and a detailed account of the two aforementioned operations results in prevailingly convincing results.

Minor criteria:

The dissertation is well structured and, in general, aptly researched. The flow of the text would have been helped by more frequent division into shorter paragraphs. The language is far from perfect, including errors in both style and grammar, but does not represent an obstacle in understanding the text. The list of sources is not alphabetically ordered.

Overall evaluation:

A dissertation with a clear research purpose and a well-arranged structure, based on robust analytical understanding of the subject matter, slightly damaged by the deficiencies in formal aspects.



**FACULTY
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Suggested grade: **B**

Signature: