

MASTER'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies

Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thesis title: | Chinese influence in the Western Balkans: comparison with examples from Asia and Africa |
| Student's name: | David Pavic Radulovic |
| Referee's name: | Bohumil Doboš |

| Criteria | Definition | Maximum | Points |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Major Criteria | | | |
| | Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality) | 50 | 45 |
| | Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses) | 15 | 10 |
| | Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question) | 15 | 10 |
| <i>Total</i> | | 80 | 65 |
| Minor Criteria | | | |
| | Sources, literature | 10 | 10 |
| | Presentation (language, style, cohesion) | 5 | 5 |
| | Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures) | 5 | 5 |
| <i>Total</i> | | 20 | 20 |
| TOTAL | | 100 | 85 |

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score:

No plagiarism found.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria The paper covers a relevant topic of the Chinese modus operandi in the Western Balkans. Given ongoing power competition on the global scale, it is crucial to analyse the tools that are being utilized by different actors in various theatres. The work highlights the economic tools that are predominantly used by China worldwide. It then compares the examples of the utilization of these in several states in Africa and Asia to the studied region. The conclusions highlighting the similarities are sound and present an opening for deeper research on its impacts and possible reactions from other actors, especially the EU. The work, however, might have been strengthened if the goal was a slightly more ambitious – analysing effectiveness of the utilization of these tools too, or go more in depth regarding possible reactions. Additionally, the theoretical framework, while well-selected, could have been better developed. The same goes for the presentation of the goals of the thesis, including the research question. In general, however, the thesis is developing a very well-presented argument, based on numerous sources and clear research structure with relevant conclusions.

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): B

Suggested questions for the defence are:

Is China effective in utilizing its economic tools in changing policy-decisions of the Western Balkan countries?

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

| TOTAL POINTS | GRADE | Quality standard |
|--------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 91 – 100 | A | = outstanding (high honor) |
| 81 – 90 | B | = superior (honor) |
| 71 – 80 | C | = good |
| 61 – 70 | D | = satisfactory |
| 51 – 60 | E | = low pass at a margin of failure |
| 0 – 50 | F | = failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence. |