

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2582976C DCU 20109431 Charles 44102693 Trento
Dissertation Title	Currency Warfare in Civil War: The Impact of the Weaponisation and Targeting of Currencies in the Biafran war

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade A4 [19]	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade A4 [19]	Late Submission Penalty no penalty
Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)		
Word Count: 21,785 Suggested Penalty: no penalty		

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).

Before Penalty: A4 [19] **After Penalty:** A4 [19]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originality of topic 	Excellent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified 	Excellent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work 	Excellent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions 	Excellent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of theory and/or concepts 	Excellent
B. Use of Source Material	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of reading and review of published literature 	Excellent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument 	Very Good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence 	Very Good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy of factual data 	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate formal and clear writing style 	Very Good

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• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Not required
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This is an excellent thesis which is clear and well argued. The background is explained properly, in terms of how currencies can be used as part of a conflict, and the particular context in Nigeria. Some theory is developed, showing innovation and originality. The methodology is set out explicitly, justified in relation to this case, and is appropriate to the research question. A very good range of documentary sources has been accessed for the dissertation. The central argument is put forward in a coherent and logical way. Some of the tables might be more clearly presented, or even better as a chart or graph, to make the central point. As a measure of the impact of currencies on the war, duration (rather than severity) is open to question. This is because the war ended as a defeat for Biafra. It could be argued that the effect of currency warfare is as likely to shorten the war (bringing defeat earlier) as to lengthen it. Overall, this is an impressive piece of work.

Reviewer 2

I am sure this is one of the best dissertations I have recently read. First, the dissertation addresses an important and original topic. Second, it is very well organized. It starts with a clear introduction, then reviews existing literature, outlines its theoretical contribution, summarizes and discusses its empirical findings, and offers sound conclusions.

The dissertation demonstrates a very mature analytical tradecraft. Of course, I can imagine some changes to make the dissertation even stronger. I think it would be beneficial to delineate more clearly the difference between the effects of 'monetary warfare' and 'economic warfare' in the empirical investigation. The case study shows Biafra's inability to pay for arms (and even food) hampered its war effort. However, I am not sure whether Nigeria's monetary policy caused Biafra's lack of funds (except for wiping out the savings in old Nigerian pounds) or whether Biafra's lack of money basically corresponded with Biafra's inability to sell anything meaningful in the international markets.

I can also imagine specifying the causal mechanisms between currency warfare and its effects more explicitly in the theoretical section. The dissertation argues that Biafra's inability to buy weapons made the war more severe. This hinges upon the implicit assumption that the war would have been less severe if Biafra had acquired more weapons. I would like to understand better how this mechanism works.

Having said that, these are primarily suggestions of what can be done should the dissertation be turned into something like an academic article. I do not think there is much more than I would expect from a MA dissertation. In contrast to many dissertations which strongly lean toward description, this one is clearly analytical and needs to be applauded for it.