



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

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Title: Beneficial or Detrimental Relationship? The Case of State-Sponsored Terrorism and the Identity of Violent Non-State Actors

Programme/year: International Security Studies/2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/second reader): supervisor

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	25
<i>Total</i>		80	60
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	79



Evaluation

Major criteria: The work has a well-established research problem upon which a research question and two sub-questions are developed. It presents a clear methodological and theoretical framework. However, the case studies do not really follow such a delimitation. The study is not focused on identities but rather goals of the selected actors, the first part of the case studies presents a different sub-question compared to the introduction. The conclusion then does not answer the research questions.

Minor criteria: The formal criteria are generally well met. The table of contents has some formatting issues and by the end of the work some typos appear, probably as a consequence of a hasty finishing of the work.

Assessment of plagiarism: No plagiarism detected

Overall evaluation: The presented research is intriguing and based on two well-picked cases – Hezbollah and Hamas. Selection of principal-agent theory is also justified. The analysis of the influence of Iranian goals on identities, however, is not conducted. What is being established is the analysis of the impact of the proxy relationship on the goals of the two groups. As the conclusion does not explicitly answer the research question, the issue of discrepancy between the research framework and actual analysis becomes more evident. Nonetheless, the presented analysis is very well prepared and still offers numerous insights and highlights the author's capacity to develop complex academic text.

Suggested grade: C

Signature: