

Ph.D. Programme of International Relations

Departments of International Relations and Security Studies
Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Examiner's Report on PhD Dissertation

Name and titles of the examiner: Prof. JUDr. PhDr. Miroslav Mareš, Ph.D.

Title of the dissertation: To Run the Insurgency like a Business: Self-Defeating Patronage by the Principal in Donbas War

Author: Mgr. Martin Laryš

I can repeat my conclusions from the previous review - the dissertation is highly topical from the point of view of contemporary development trends and can be seen as an essential contribution with enormous societal relevance. Its research design is entirely acceptable, as well as the used theoretical framework, conceptualization, case selection, data, resources, and used methods.

The author described the phenomenon of the phantom units excellently compared to the previous version. I still see questionable the synonymous use of the terms rebellion and insurgency in the thesis. However, I can accept the author's approach to this issue. His empirical contribution is significant. I appreciate original new research, analysis of data, and new findings, which contribute to the knowledge about the Donbas conflict and insurgency. Laryš uses a well-written style and langue, and grammar.

All individual issues were explained in the previous process. I evaluate this thesis as an excellent academic output, and I can recommend the dissertation for defense. The author can explain the general contribution of his dissertation to the research on insurgency during the defence.



Miroslav Mareš

In Brno, 22 February 2022