FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Julie Rjazanova

Title: Formation of Pro-Russian Sentiment in Belarus and Serbia during the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Programme/year: International Security Studies 2023

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Anzhelika Solovyeva

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	20
Total		***80***	48
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	10
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	5
Total		***20***	20
TOTAL		***100***	68

Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis brings together a lot of relevant information. It also focuses on an important and timely topic. Its major weakness is the disproportionately short empirical part. Consequently, the link between theory and practice is rather weak (although the author includes respective references in the "discussion" section, the empirical details presented above are not systematically interpreted in relation to the selected theoretical framework). At the theoretical level, the direct relationship between the concept of hybrid warfare and the practice of building alliances is not well substantiated. While the author claims that "[t]his concept offers valuable insights into the dynamics of contemporary security challenges, particularly in the context of Russian efforts to build potential new alliances or straighten existing ones with the corresponding narratives," this concept is usually used to study the ways Russia conducts warfare against its adversaries. Following up on the same point, the utility of the concept of hybrid warfare is questionable as it is reduced to the notion of information warfare in this thesis. More attention could have also been devoted to develop a convincing explanation of why all the selected concepts are necessary (e.g. that it would, for example, be impossible to produce the analysis of Russian propaganda in the selected countries without the concept of "social movements", of which I am not entirely convinced) and how they hang together in a coherent theoretical framework.

Minor criteria:

The thesis fulfills the formal requirements.

Assessment of plagiarism:

Not detected.

Overall evaluation:

Given the mentioned shortcomings, I suggest "D" for the overall evaluation.

Suggested grade: D

Signature: