



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Isaac David Pinto Guzman

Title: "The Decline of Terrorism in European soil: Comparative Political Analysis"

Programme/year: 2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/second reader): Mgr. KLEDIAN MYFTARI

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	24
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	34
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	66
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	8
	Style	<b>5</b>	3
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	3
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	14
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	81



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

#### Research Questions:

This thesis has very well-structured and clearly articulated research objectives. The research questions, moreover, are very appropriate to the study at hand and can well be examined in the context of a master's thesis.

#### Theoretical/Conceptual Framework:

This thesis could benefit from a more in-depth exploration of appropriate academic theories and models in the field of counterterrorism and tie these more closely with the subsequent analysis and discussion. The theory section does not engage extensively with various counterterrorism theory. The work rapidly introduces theoretical concepts in a brief manner one after the other. A deeper connection among them is essential.

#### Methodology and Argument:

The Methodology as presented is very rambling and unstructured. It would be best to open with a broad point, such as the choice of a mixed approach and work towards a more systematic structuring of the section. One thing that is directly needed is a clearer discussion of the use of qualitative analysis. There is no mention of how data will be analysed qualitatively.

The dissertation draws much data on only 19 EU countries. Is this a sufficient number from which to draw conclusions? The author should consider the diversity and differences among EU members. Can one really generalize the issue given diverse contexts among EU countries. Also, some data presented refers to the overall defense budget and not specifically to the funding of counterterrorism. Could this data be of relevance when trying to establish a correlation between the budget increase and the lower or decreasing numbers of failed/foiled/completed terrorist attacks? The author might have considered that other factors, such as effective intelligence gathering, strong international cooperation, and social policies that discourage radicalization, may play a more significant role in preventing and countering terrorism.

Only in the Discussion section does the author present EUSUS, EUCT and EUCTS. There is, moreover, a disjunction between a finding that suggests that the European counterterrorism strategy has not been entirely successful in reducing and limiting the creation of terrorist plans and other key findings presented, which assert that the EU's policies/strategies have helped decrease the number of foiled/failed terrorist attacks on its soil.



### **Minor criteria**

I feel that the literature review does not do justice to the extent of scholarly discussions on counterterrorism. The Works Cited is heavily oriented towards policy reports. There are so many academic studies available on this topic, and these should be more extensively referenced.

### **Style**

Style is one of the weaker points of this thesis. Although the author should be lauded for his command of English, the writing is extremely choppy. It is very repetitive and lacks transitions. The author simply needs to develop as an academic writer.

### **Formal Requirements**

The author's respect for formal requirements is very weak. It appears that he is attempting to use APA. He should at once heed the need for italicization in journal titles and be careful of punctuation.

### **Overall evaluation:**

#### **Strengths:**

One of the notable strengths of this thesis lies in its well-structured and clearly articulated research objectives. It is data driven and meticulously examines governmental expenditures, terrorist activities, and arrests, presenting the findings through figures and trendlines. The thesis is not afraid to ask critical questions about the effectiveness of the EU's counterterrorism strategies. It challenges conventional wisdom, particularly the singular focus on Islamist terrorism, and argues convincingly for a more holistic approach. This willingness to question assumptions is a hallmark of rigorous academic inquiry.

#### **Weaknesses:**

The thesis lacks the depth of theoretical engagement that one might expect of a master's thesis. Moreover, more discussion of sources and their reliability would enhance the transparency of the research.

**Suggested grade: 81/B**

**Signature: KLEDIAN MYFTARI**