



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Peter Žilka

Title: Rise of illiberal peace? Russian perspective on the sustainability of post-conflict arrangements

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia, 2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	36
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	71
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	4
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	3
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	88



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The thesis rests on a robust conceptual basis that notes the growing skepticism towards liberal peacebuilding as a process to mend post-conflict societies. In searching for possible alternatives that have presented themselves in political practice, the author steers his analysis towards the notion of 'illiberal peace', as a set of practices (and their outcomes) employed by non-democratic regimes during their involvements in post-war scenarios. As empirical material, the author chose Russia and its involvement in four such cases: Tajikistan, Chechnya, Nagorno-Karabakh and Syria. While markedly different from one another, all these cases contain evidence of a markedly different, illiberal approach to stabilizing a country and its society after the end of a violent conflict.

The analysis is well structured, starting with a conceptual overview and methodological introduction and culminating with the dissection of the four aforementioned cases, focusing on three dimensions: institution-building and governance, security sector reform and economic recovery. The result is an insightful, empirically rich analysis. The only drawback is the somewhat meandering focus between the Russian practices and the general development in the post-conflict countries.

### Minor criteria:

The author must be lauded for the wide selection of highly relevant sources and their exhaustive, meticulous use. The thesis as such is a solid piece of academic writing, even if the use of English may be slightly clumsy on occasions (as in the all too frequent use of "albeit", "whereas" etc. throughout the text).

### Assessment of plagiarism:

The thesis does not exhibit traits of plagiarism.



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**Overall evaluation:**

This is a strong, well-researched and ably crafted thesis, resting on a clear conceptual foundation and featuring complex, empirically rich analysis, with only minor flaws.

**Suggested grade:**

**B**

**Signature:**