



Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2022/2023

Student's name and surname: Benjamin von Werdt
Student's ID: 27964700

Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies (IMSIS)

Study ID: 722548

Title of the thesis: Profiling a State? Combining the Methods of Micro-Level Profiling with the Scope of Macro-Level Strategic Analysis
Thesis department: Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: Dr. Timothy Peacock
Date of defence: 22.09.2023 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of defence: The student began by introducing his topic through an overview of a wider literature, beyond IR, and specifying his motivation. He then went to explain what his rationale was about and showing what his research question was, noting also some competing explanations. The student continued by detailing his research strategy and methodology, justifying his case selection. Discussing his findings, the student presented his conclusion, linked them to policy-relevant issues, and noted possible future research directions. He commented on the relevance of his work beyond the scope of the thesis. Next, the student discussed the most salient points of criticism. One had to do with the student's possible omission of relevant literature, which the student said had happened but suggested that the works would likely not have impacted his work. Another was about possible tautology in the work, but the student countered that he risked this, as there was no other way to methodologically deal with a key component of the thesis. Other critiques were about insufficient analysis, to which the student said that, yes, but given space constraints, there was no other way. Lastly, about ethical considerations of the work, related to stereotyping, the student acknowledged that he could have been more explicit. The committee asked about how the student constructed state profiles, with what data, and what ensured that the data were not biased. The student explained his process. Another question was about the possibility of state change. The student answered that a state change is possible and the model is capable of accommodating that.

Result of defence:	excellent (B)	
Chair of the board:	prof. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	Georgios Glouftsios (present)
	Marcin Kaczmarski, Dr. (present)