

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	<b>Glasgow</b> 2686282 <b>DCU</b> 21108994 <b>Charles</b> 80535461
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	Regional powers going abroad: Extra regional geoeconomic strategies of India, Türkiye, and the EU in the Horn of Africa

### INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

		<b>Late Submission Penalty</b> no penalty
<b>Word Count Penalty</b> (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)		
<b>Word Count:</b> 21994 <b>Suggested Penalty:</b> Select from drop down list		

### JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

<b>Final Agreed Mark.</b> (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).	
<b>Before Penalty:</b> A3 [20]	<b>After Penalty:</b> A3 [20]

### DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
<b>A. Structure and Development of Answer</b>	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• Originality of topic	Excellent
• Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified	Very Good
• Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work	Excellent
• Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions	Excellent
• Application of theory and/or concepts	Excellent
<b>B. Use of Source Material</b>	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• Evidence of reading and review of published literature	Excellent
• Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument	Very Good
• Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence	Excellent
• Accuracy of factual data	Excellent
<b>C. Academic Style</b>	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• Appropriate formal and clear writing style	Excellent
• Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation	Excellent
• Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)	Excellent
• Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?	Yes
• Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)	Not required

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- *Appropriate word count*

Yes

### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Reviewer 1**

This master's thesis delves into the geoeconomic strategies of Türkiye, India, and the European Union (EU) concerning their engagements with countries in the Horn of Africa. Utilizing a model by Wigell, the study employs both qualitative and quantitative data, encompassing academic articles, policy briefs, official documents, and trade statistics. The thesis demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the bilateral relations, trade agreements, development projects, and strategic intentions of these major actors in the region, emphasizing their economic and strategic significance in the Horn of Africa.

The thesis has a threefold aim, making it multifaceted in its approach. It not only contributes to the academic debate on geoeconomics but also aids in the development of concepts and frameworks on regional powers' geoeconomic foreign policies. Additionally, it applies a geoeconomic lens to actors in the Horn of Africa, providing a fresh perspective distinct from the more commonly studied powers like the US or China.

The document is methodically structured, starting with a literature review that discusses trends and developments in relevant scholarship. This is followed by a section outlining the methodological approach, data sources, and the proposed conceptual framework. The analysis section provides context on the roles of the three actors as regional powers, their general policies, and strategies towards Africa, and then applies the framework to their geoeconomic engagement in the Horn of Africa.

As with any paper, this thesis also has some room for improvement. While the thesis offers a comprehensive exploration of its topic, there are two primary areas where it could be enhanced. Firstly, the literature review, though extensive, would benefit from a more integrated synthesis, weaving together the various sources and perspectives to present a more cohesive narrative of a research gap. Secondly, while the thesis commendably articulates the rationale behind its broader objectives, it would be beneficial to see a more explicit justification for the specific research questions posed, ensuring clarity and depth in its investigative approach.

However, these are minor issues. Overall, the thesis offers a discussion that compares the different actors' approaches and objectives, providing a holistic view of their geoeconomic strategies. The document doesn't just propose a framework but also assesses its utility based on the research and analysis process, highlighting both its strengths and weaknesses. This self-assessment adds credibility to the research and provides insights for future studies. In summary, the thesis is comprehensive, methodically structured, offers a fresh perspective on geoeconomics in the Horn of Africa, and critically assesses its own proposed framework, making it a valuable contribution to the academic field

#### **Reviewer 2**

This dissertation provides a well-structured, clearly written and timely account of the geoeconomic strategies of Turkey, India, and the European Union (EU) through a focus on their respective engagement with the Horn of Africa. It shows evidence of a firm grasp of these countries and regions as well as a strong methodological approach that is well suited to an

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investigation of the topic at hand. The dissertation is empirically rich but also well situated in relation to a number of relevant conceptual literatures, including the model developed by Wigell and regional security complexes. It also engages with wider literatures on neo-mercantilism, neo-imperialism, liberal institutionalism and theories of hegemony.

In addition, the dissertation is devised to respond to a self-identified gap in the literature, namely regional powers' extra-regional geoeconomic strategies by assessing the applicability of Wigell's framework. This shows a close reading of conceptual literatures and evidence of an effort to advance conceptual and empirical thinking on contemporary geoeconomics. The dissertation makes a strong case that the categorisation and "ideal typology" of the different strategies were indeed applicable to the approaches of the respective actors and argued that this provides a strong foundation for triangulating a basic characterisation of their respective policies.

While the quality of the analysis and writing is excellent, the conceptual framework and literature review sections could have been deepened and smoothed a bit further to make them even more compelling. Overall, these sections read in a list-like manner at times rather than in the form of original argumentation. This is a small point, however, and does in no way challenge the overall merit of the dissertation.