



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Tomáš Rothschein

Title: Chinese reaction to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine

Programme/year: International Security Studies/2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Aliaksei Kazharski

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	30
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	34
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	94



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

### Minor criteria:

### Assessment of plagiarism:

2% similarity according to SIS protocol. No indications of plagiarism.

### Overall evaluation:

The presented thesis is well-written and well-researched. It addresses a very relevant topic and delivers a convincing argument – within the limits set by the selected theory. I believe it deserves a high grade.

Overall, there is not too much to criticize but one or two points could be better elaborated. Thus, while the main point of the thesis is well argued and supported by empirical evidence, it remains ultimately unclear to me how the two hypotheses are related to the theory, in other words, based on what theoretical premises did the author arrive at the assumptions he makes in H1 and H2? Personally, I think the argument alone would suffice for the thesis to work, but if there are hypotheses they do need to be plugged into the theory.

Thinking a little bit outside the realist box, I am also wondering if the argument does not conflate national security and regime security. At some point the author recognizes that the “non-intervention” ideologeme is instrumentalized to legitimize and prolong the unrestrained rule of China’s Communist Party. Neoclassical realism opens the “black box” to analyze the role of domestic ideologies and political regimes as intervening variables or moderating factors that shape ways in which states react to systemic pressures, while maintaining that the latter are still the primary drivers of state behavior. Does not evidence from China however suggest that the regime survival strategies are primary in the end, with sovereigntist and “non-interventionist”



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foreign policy doctrines being merely an excuse for tightening the authoritarian grip on power? In other words, does the Chinese case reinforce the neoclassical realist argument about international politics or, on the contrary, expose it as a form of Western naiveté practiced by American academics?

Minor defects: the thesis is written in good English and is stylistically sound, but the present perfect tense is repeatedly misused in the first part. This constantly confuses the reader: is the author talking about now or something that happened a hundred years ago?

**Suggested grade:**

**A**

**Signature:**

*Alku*