



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Luc de Vries

Title: What are the Unveiling Factors Shaping the Outcome of Military Interventions in the Middle East? A Comparative Analysis of Syria and Libya

Programme/year: International Security Studies, 2024

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Emil Aslan

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	40
<i>Total</i>		80	77
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	3
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	
TOTAL		100	95



Evaluation

Major criteria: This is a solid piece of research. The thesis seeks to 'evaluate the outcomes of military interventions in the Middle East, with a focus on NATO's intervention in Libya and Russia's intervention in Syria.' It seeks to 'test a comprehensively developed framework for assessing the outcome of military interventions.' Then, the thesis engages its freshly developed framework to 'examine how certain factors determined the outcome of specific aspects of these interventions.' The thesis identifies the following criteria to evaluate the success of military success: political objective achievement, strategy effectiveness, acceptable cost, and the facilitation of long-term stability. Furthermore, it examines the socio-economic, political, ideological, and regional factors that have dictated the outcome of these interventions.

While some formal criticism might be raised on the contextual differences of the selected case studies, as well as on the complexity and applicability of the author's conceptual framework, such attempts per se are immensely valuable. The author does a great job conceptualizing the phenomenon, placing it into the theoretical realm of the well-defined research problem of (un)successful military interventions, and carrying out a focused literature review. The author's methods section is well-executed, as well. The thesis is well-written, well-structured, analytical, and enhances our understanding of the researched phenomenon. Considering its a M.A. thesis, there is little to criticize both in terms of its research design and execution.

Minor criteria: The thesis might need a final polishing (see the 'findings found' in the abstract). Other than that, all is good.

Assessment of plagiarism: None detected.

Overall evaluation: The thesis is a conceptually and theoretically-driven, research problem-centred piece of valuable social science research. I suggest that the author considers publishing it.

Suggested grade: A



**FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
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Signature: Emil Aslan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emil Aslan". The signature is stylized, with a large, prominent 'E' and 'A'.