

## IEPS MASTER THESIS OPPONENT REVIEW

**STUDENT NAME:** Saida Ibrahimava

**THESIS TITLE:** Islamic Radical Movements in Egypt and the UK

**OPPONENT NAME:** Mgr. Hrishabh Sandilya, MCom.

**OPPONENT GRADE:** *3 Good*

It is difficult to understand what the author proposes to do in the thesis. There is a complete lack of a clearly defined research hypothesis, and halfway through reading the thesis one is left to wonder if the author is trying to write an encyclopaedia or proving the elements of different dimensions of research. The language and grammar is inconsistent and the structure varies, the author chooses to refer to her self as "the author" but instead of sticking in the third person, switches to "my" in the first person.

Content wise, the first Chapter on Egypt is an exercise in re-telling facts and perhaps the thesis would have been better without the whole section, the second part of the thesis that focuses on the UK has substance. There is a lot of scope in the qualitative analysis done of the media portrayal of Islam in the UK, one only wishes that the author had included findings from the author primary research she indicates she conducted in the introduction. The conclusions drawn at the end unfortunately do not deal with the findings from the primary research but again generalise about Islamic youth in the world.

This thesis is in dire need of editing as well of a purpose, the only saving grace is that the author has managed to produce a 130 page length manuscript, from which there should be enough data and information to produce a decent dissertation. The author deserves to be commended for an exceptional use of secondary sources, nothing more. I would find it difficult to recommend that this thesis be evaluated more than as 'Good'

My questions to the author would be

1. What were the main motivations in writing about 2 distinct and different countries, one an Arabic Muslim country and other a European secular democracy? What was the hypothesis behind research and what justified the choice of subject matter?
2. What are the major differences in the radicalization in the UK and Egypt and the major social trends underlying in each?

I apologise for the shortened length of this review due to the limited time available.

Sincerely

Mgr. Hrishabh Sandilya MCom.