



Supervisor's MA Thesis Assessment

Title: Security Sector Reform in the Southern Caucasus: Georgia and Azerbaijan

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The thesis deals with a highly relevant topic of the SSR in two post-Soviet countries. The goals of the thesis are clearly defined – the author aims at analyzing the differences between SSR in both countries and searching for the reasons of these differences. The first part of the thesis includes theoretical discussion focusing on the definitions and processes of the SSR. Then, the thesis continues with the contextual part setting the scene for the empirical analysis.

The structure of the thesis is clear and logical. Also, in most of its parts, the thesis has an argumentative character. Both theoretical and empirical parts are based on relevant resources and the resource base is indeed solid.

My major critical notes are related to the way in which the crucial analytical categories (variables) are derived from the theoretical discussion. In fact, the link between the variables and theory is not entirely clear. The categories themselves are logical and analytical useful but they are not effectively grounded in theory. Additionally, it should be more clearly explained what sectors will still be counted to SSR (link with the definitional discussion). This problem is also reflected in the empirical part since the Georgian analysis seems to be based on a wider definition of SSR whereas the Azerbaijani case is more center around military sector. Apparently, this moment



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negatively affects the comparative perspective of the thesis.

Despite the above-mentioned critical points I recommend the thesis for defence and suggest the following evaluation – **very good**.

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Vít Střítecký