



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Jeremy E. Meyer**

Title: **United Nations and Private  
Military Companies: Impact of the  
Mercenary Norm**

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia/2016

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	35
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	70
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	9
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	19
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	89



## Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis investigates an important and timely topic of UN's use of services of private military and security companies (PMSCs). More specifically, it examines the impact of the so-called anti-mercenary norm on the UN's use of PMSCs and it explores whether the UN's discourse vis-à-vis PMSCs has evolved over time to match the actual practice of increased use of their services.

In order to examine the impact of the anti-mercenary norm, the author has performed a discourse analysis of the reports of the *Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination*, later renamed to *UN's Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of people to self-determination through resolution 2005/2*.

He has used both the standard criteria for assessment of the impact of the norm and devised his own additional second set of indicators to evaluate the impact of the norm's two key components (the lack of control and the lack of just or appropriate cause) upon UN's discourse vis-à-vis PMSCs and the recently adopted set of UN guidelines relating to the use of private armed security guards.

The thesis is well structured and the author engages the relevant literature regarding PMSCs in general and their use by the UN in particular, albeit in both cases the literature review could be improved both in terms of its scope and breath. Nonetheless, the key issues are covered. When it comes to the anti-mercenary norm literature review, there is a solid summary of the key arguments from Sarah Percy's much cited book, but relatively little engagement of the general body of literature on norms in IR, albeit again, the key authors and concepts are mentioned.

The chapters devoted to the empirical analysis of UN's use of PMSCs services are well organized and written, with plenty of references to both primary and secondary sources. Similarly, the analysis of the UN's discourse vis-à-vis PMSC is sufficient. The concluding section offers a rich discussion of both the limits and implications of the thesis findings.



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Minor criteria:

Overall evaluation:

Overall, the thesis certainly meets the standard criteria for this type of academic work. I therefore recommend this thesis to be defended.

Suggested grade: 1-

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. M.' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Signature: