



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Jeremy Edward Meyer

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

Programme/year: MISS/2016

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Jan Daniel

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	24
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	33
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	66
<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>	85



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The author has chosen an interesting and relevant topic for his thesis - the relations between the UN and PMSCs and specifically the (non-) use of services provided by these companies to the UN in the area of peacekeeping. The thesis investigates the impact of the so-called anti-mercenary norm on the UN policy towards the PMSCs and examines whether the UN discourse on this issue corresponds over time with the actual practice. The author has analysed the series of UN reports on the use of PMSCs and available data on contracts between the UN and private providers of security services.

The amount of data examined by the author deserves to be highlighted and the empirical chapters of the thesis represent its strongest part. The analysis of the relevant documents and data is performed in a systematic and comprehensive manner and it enables the author to provide some interesting conclusions.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the theoretical part of the thesis. Even though the author has demonstrated a good grasp of the literature dealing with the relations between the UN and PMSCs, the paragraphs devoted to the role of norms in international relations are rather brief and largely based on one book (Sarah Percy's *Mercenaries: The History of a Norm in International Relations*). Given the variety and extent of scholarship on norms in the discipline of IR, it is rather inadequate to draw mainly on one study. Proper introduction of the discourse analysis as a specific method used for the analysis is lacking as well.

My second critical point concerns the contextualization of the current practice of the UN peacekeeping. The author describes on a few pages the UN failure in Rwanda, its establishment after the Second World War, the structure of the UN and its core functions, but he does not explain the (changing) context of UN peacekeeping and various tasks, which are nowadays associated with it. As the author convincingly argues, the necessity of the PMSCs contracting stems from the insufficient contributions by the UN member states, however at the same time, it is closely connected also to the changing form of UN peacekeeping after the end of Cold War and expansion of the tasks, which are the peacekeeping missions expected to perform. Taking in account this wider development would enable the author to put the rising numbers of private security companies, which focus e.g. on training, protection of the UN personnel and logistics into a proper context. In this regard, it would be also interesting to see some form of breakdown of the contracts with the PMSCs between the DPKO/DFS and other UN agencies. To sum up, framing of the thesis merely around the UN failure in Rwanda (more than 20



years ago) and subsequent debate on employment of the PMSCs in the military part of peacekeeping activities is quite narrow and it misses the changing forms of current UN peacekeeping.

Minor criteria:

As was mentioned above, the amount of literature in the theoretical part of the thesis is rather limited.

Overall evaluation:

The thesis certainly meets the standard criteria for this type of academic work and I recommend it to be defended. I highly appreciate the empirical part of the thesis, however, the theoretical part lacks more detail and engagement with the relevant literature.

Suggested grade:

1-2

Signature: