



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

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Title: EUROPEAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY IN TIMES OF AUSTERITY

Programme/year: MISS 2017

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): dr. Vít Strítecký

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	12
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	25
Total		80	50
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	3
	Formal requirements	5	4
Total		20	15
TOTAL		100	65



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis intends to investigate the transformation of the national defense industrial bases among the major EU countries in a context of the EU initiatives.

The thesis is very informative and based on rich resource base. However, particularly the contextual or historically descriptive parts benefit from this characteristic. My major research design concern relates to the theoretical framework that utilizes contrast between constructivism and neorealism. First, it is not entirely clear why these two theories were put forward. Second, they are decently described but are not operationalized. The operationalization would indeed be crucial since the framework is very generic and also due to the fact that the primary research question mentions wider (geo)political circumstances driving the transformation.

Although the thesis is rich on the data, it lacks a coherent methodological strategy. The empirical analysis is quite in-depth but feels distant from the proposed theoretical framework.

Minor criteria:

The thesis has a solid resource base and reads quite well. It occasionally suffers from stylistic deficiencies and typos.

Overall evaluation:

My general feeling is that the generic IR theory-based framework was somewhat artificially implemented in the already existing analysis of European defence market transformation and evolution. Should we have more time I would strongly suggest reorienting the theoretical framework towards defence political economy (Hartley, etc)

Suggested grade: Good

Signature: PhDr. Vít Strátecký, M.Phil., Ph.D