



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Onur Kaya

Title: UN Role in the Mediation of Intractable Conflicts: The Case of Cyprus

Programme/year: MISS, 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Author of Evaluation: Tomáš Karásek (supervisor)

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	22
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	35
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	8
	Style	<b>5</b>	4
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	4
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The thesis focuses on the conflict in Cyprus, one of the most persistent in global comparison. It seeks to combine two concepts - intractability and conflict mediation – to explain the role played in the conflict by the United Nations. Given the conflict's resistance towards final resolution, its potential geopolitical significance and other features, the author certainly needs to be lauded for the choice of the topic.

In one sentence, the thesis can be described as empirically rich and conceptually weak. To start with the positive feature, the author evidently gathered a wide array of sources to provide a detailed account of the conflict and the UN's role within it. The knowledge of and interest in the topic is apparent throughout the thesis, and help guide the reader through the complexities of the conflict and its historical evolution.

Unfortunately, this attention to empirical detail is not matched by commensurate care for a theoretical anchoring of the thesis. Including its title, the author turns the attention to the concept of intractability, but the concept is neither thoroughly introduced nor used as an organizing principle for guiding the conflict's analysis. In short, it is not made clear why and how this specific feature influences its prospects for resolution. Comparably, the thesis does not work with a specific conceptualization of mediation, despite the fact that there is a well established academic literature on the classification of the activity and its implications.

### Minor criteria:

The thesis rests on a wide array of relevant sources, which are properly utilized and referred to throughout the text. Its language and style do not feature as its special qualities, but neither do they act as a hindrance – generally, they are not outstanding but certainly acceptable.



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Overall evaluation:

The thesis impresses with its attention to empirical detail, as its description of the history of the UN's involvement in the Cyprus conflict is complex and thorough. However, its analytical qualities are limited by a lack of a working theoretical framework, beyond rather formalistic allusions to the concept of intractability.

Suggested grade: **2**

Signature: