



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Radu Florescu

Title: Short sticks and Rotting Carrots: Changing Coup-Proofing Structures in Post-Civil War Syria

Programme/year: SECINTEL 2017

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Kučera

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	73
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	2
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	16
TOTAL		100	89



Evaluation

The dissertation demonstrates author's ability to find and analyse data and constructs a logical and coherent argument. The dissertation confidently builds up its argument from post-colonial insight on the issue of nation-building in the Middle East, through Ayoob's sub-altern realism to specific issues of civil-military relations in authoritarian states.

While the analysis confidently proves author's analytical competence, his presentation skills notably decrease the overall quality of the dissertation. The text is littered with typos, grammatic errors and stylistically awkward sentences. Moreover, lengthy paragraphs and lack of signposting do not facilitate accessibility of the text. Unfortunately, it takes a lot of effort to orientate in the text and recognize its undisputable strengths.

Substance-wise, chapter 3 on structural coup-proofing represent the best of author's intelligence analysis. Nonetheless, his analysis does not seem entirely persuasive. I am not entirely convinced by author's categorisation of coup-proofing and coup-ploting units, yet this categorisation is essential for his further analysis. It seems to me that the coup-proofing category contains units that have the opportunity to protect the regime as well as to intervene in it (praetorian units). The coup-plotting units, on the other hand, are defined by their inability to play an internal role. Author's approach is perfectly consistent with his overall materialist focus. Nonetheless, this approach omits the question of politicisation of military officers as one of the chief factors for military interventions in politics. The author should address this point during the oral defence.

Suggested grade: Excellent

Signature: 28.8.2017