



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Maika Malina Sdun

Title: The Six-Party Talks and the North Korean nuclear weapons programme:
negotiation analysis

Programme/year: MAIN/2017

Author of Evaluation (advisor): Michal Parížek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	32
<i>Total</i>		80	65
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	18
TOTAL		100	83



Evaluation

Major criteria:

This is an interesting thesis addressing one of the prominent topics of current international politics. Maika Sdun seeks to understand the reasons behind the failure of the Six Party Talks. To do that, she employs negotiation analysis as the guiding framework, and collects primary and secondary evidence to identify the reasons for the negotiations deadlock.

The overall design of the framework is quite sound, and the entire research well outlined and planned.

In my view the theoretical/conceptual framework is mostly adequate, although I believe much more could have been done on discussing the details of the framework. This is a really rich literature, and the thesis discusses only some of it (arguably, it really covers many of the most important points in the literature relevant for this case, but for instance one important factor discussed a lot is how different regimes negotiate differently).

I do believe the analytical dimension of the thesis could be significantly strengthened. In other words, I would like to see more systematic and detailed work with empirical data, drawing of clear conclusions, stronger reasoning behind the tests of the hypotheses. The thesis is not somehow flawed in this regard, it just should be stronger.

Minor criteria:

The thesis is very well and clearly written.

Overall evaluation:

This is a good quality thesis addressing a relevant and interesting topic, with the use of suitable research design, conceptual/theoretical apparatus, and empirical evidence. The thesis is relatively strong in all key respects, although in most of them one more step could have been taken to strengthen it.

Suggested grade: one the border between excellent (1) and very good (2)

Signature: