



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Ilyas Sharibzhanov

Title: Drug policy in the ex-Soviet states after the introduction of new policies in the West: Clandestine Drug Trade and State-Crime-Terror Nexus in the former Soviet Union

Programme/year:

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	18
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	25
<i>Total</i>		80	52
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	16
TOTAL		100	68



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The presented thesis intends to investigate the drug policies in the ex-Soviet states taking into consideration the changes of the Western (West-European) approaches. The research is well formulated and indeed relevant given the lack of analytical information about the drug scene in the former Soviet Union. Conceptually, the author draws on the state-crime-terror nexus that is well established in the study of political economy of terror/crime, mostly in the non-democratic environments. However, the concept is rather poorly introduced and operationalized.

The focus of the thesis is rather empirical as it gathers a large amount of empirical data structured along the above-mentioned nexuses. The empirical part is rather analytical, although uses several different types of the data.

Minor criteria:

The thesis is quite well-written and elaborated. The resources base is limited particularly in the theoretical part.

Overall evaluation:

In the end of the day, a slightly more focused theoretical endeavour could fundamentally improve the thesis. The text has an analytical nature and the nexus framework has an apparent potential, which remained non-used. On the other hand the thesis has its empirical quality and the design is not wrong but (only) underdone. Therefore, I can fully recommend the thesis for defence.

Suggested grade: D

Signature: