



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Kevin Karabin

Title: Extremism-countering Security Measures in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Room for Improvement?

Programme/year: Security Studies, 2017/2018

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Emil Aslan (Souleimanov), opponent

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	3
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	20
Total		80	43
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	3
Total		20	16
TOTAL		100	59



Evaluation

Major criteria: The thesis is fairly strongly anchored theoretically. Yet methodologically, it is dramatically weak. First, the whole thesis draws on interviews with just three individuals. Their confessions lead the author to draw far-reaching conclusions (by means of testing hypotheses!) on the nation-state attitudes. One of the respondents is People in Need's Iva Svobodova, who is said to have been based in Sarajevo. It is difficult to assume, knowing the PiN's agenda, that her work has been closely related to security. If yes, then the author should have explained his selection of respondents including her. The rest of the respondents do relate to the field of security studies, but I hesitate to call them leading experts on the matter whose confessions should shake the thesis's ambitious conclusions. Yet many important experts have not been contacted. The confessions of the respondents are heavily affected by the ongoing migration crisis which also skews the overall (very limited and tentative) findings.

Minor criteria: A number of work relating to Wahhabism/Salafi-jihadism in Bosnia is also missing in the thesis.

I'm not happy with the way the author structures the thesis: the chapter on conceptualization contains pages dealing with individual termini/concepts without engaging in a meaningful/critical conceptual analysis.

The fourth chapter engages in lit review (after the historical context is presented), which is very atypical to say the least.

Bringa is the name of a female (not male as the author is suggesting) anthropologist – in fact one of the leading anthropologists dealing with the Bosnia conflict.

Overall evaluation: The thesis reads as a first draft of a larger – yet unfinished – project. Despite the author's take on a promising and timely topic, it largely fails to deliver on its goals empirically and methodologically.



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Suggested grade: E

Signature: Emil Aslan (Souleimanov)