



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Slávka Marcinová

Title: Changes in Turkish foreign policy towards Iran in the Davutoğlu era (2002 - 2012)

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia, 2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	8
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	37
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	9
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	4
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The thesis focuses on a highly relevant topic and discusses it with commendable analytical depth and acumen. Changes in Turkish foreign policy under the leadership of Recep Erdogan and Ahmet Davutoglu as his foreign policy advisor and later minister were profound and complemented the shift in internal political affairs of the country, induced by the rule of AKP. The author focuses on the first decade of AKP's foreign policy, and on the case of Iran attempts to categorize and explain the sources of the change that occurred during this period.

The main feature of the thesis is its analytical and structural clarity. The argument flows seamlessly and, with very few exceptions (e.g. chapter 4.1.2 which seems slightly oddly placed only after an introduction to Turkey's foreign policy towards Iran), the chapters and their parts are logically organized. The author conducted a thorough and complex literature review of sources concerning foreign policy analysis and specifically those focusing on its change. Eventually, she selected Charles Hermann's model which distinguishes four levels of foreign policy change (adjustment changes, program changes, problem/goal changes, international orientation changes). These are then linked with several contexts of Turkish foreign policy during the period in vogue (domestic factors, security-based explanations, economic interests, leader-based change, international and institutional factors).

While the literature review on foreign policy change has been performed impeccably, the choice of the aforementioned factors (or categories) in which the change occurred looks a bit instinctive and might have used better conceptual or theoretical anchoring, explaining why specifically these aspects (and not other) are highlighted, why they are structured in a given way (e.g. why is political leadership not subsumed under domestic factors) and how they relate to each other. That being said, the analysis of Turkish foreign policy in the period of 2002-2012, performed on the basis of the selected model, is rich, complex and revealing, resulting in a compelling analysis of the development.

### Minor criteria:

The thesis rests on a wide selection of relevant sources. The author made full use of her unique language capabilities and complements the Western sources with authors from Turkey and the broader region, adding nuance and specific insight into her analysis. The text is written in laudably impeccable English which further elevates its



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qualities. The only feature that undermines the flow of the text is a fixation on too short, often one-sentence paragraphs (e.g., but not only, in chapter 1.2).

Overall evaluation:

The thesis represents a thorough, well structured analysis based on a sound selection of a guiding concept (though a deeper theoretical anchoring could have elevated it further). It benefits from the author's detailed knowledge of the subject, as represented by the choice of sources, and her ability to transform it into generalizable conclusions. On top of that, it is nicely written, with almost no discernable mistakes.

Suggested grade: **B**

Signature: