



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Valerio Francesco Scartezzini

Title: Analytical Eclecticism in an Analysis of Turkey's Regional Foreign Policy

Programme/year: International Security Studies, 2019

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor):

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	21
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	31
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	58
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	9
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	19
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	79



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The evaluated thesis presents a very ambitious attempt to develop a novel, eclectic approach to study of Turkish foreign policy and especially its changes during the so-called Arab Spring. In order to do so, the author manages to review both theoretical and empirical literature dedicated to this issue, including works published in Turkish. The thesis makes a compelling argument for the need to focus both on structural changes in the regional state system and domestic discourses articulated by foreign policy elites that determine how will these changes be understood and potentially exploited. The author thus managed to very well integrate theoretical discussion with methodology and empirical application.

Unfortunately, the ambitions of the thesis are to a certain extent let down by few shortcomings. Firstly, the theoretical part of the thesis seems a bit confused as it jumps between different theoretical approaches and in some cases, it misinterprets some of them. Secondly, while it is understandable why the author works primarily with Turkish authors, it would have made sense to broaden the literature review to account also for more general theoretical studies on foreign policy. Thirdly, given the ambitions of the thesis, the methodological chapter could have been developed more in detail and particularly the structural dimension of foreign policy decision-making would deserve further elaboration. Fourthly, especially the fourth chapter seems at times a bit too descriptive and less connected to the main analytical framework.

### Minor criteria:

The thesis is very well written in terms of style, which makes it a pleasant read. The only issue I can mention in this section is missing non-Turkish literature focusing on the studied issues.

### Overall evaluation:

The reviewed thesis proves that the author is able of conducting a highly original research and producing a well-written analytical texts. The thesis thus fulfils all the standard requirements for this type of work. However, several smaller or bigger shortcomings mentioned in the preceding sections prevent the text from fully realizing its potential.

Suggested grade: C

Signature: