



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Andrew Porter

Title: The Dragon's Pearls: Decoding the Chinese Strategy for the Indian Ocean

Programme/year: International Relations/2020

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): PhDr. Ivana Karásková, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/ conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	40
<i>Total</i>		80	75
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	94

Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis deals with a problem of evaluating motivations of the People's Republic of China to build/lease naval bases in Indian Ocean. The thesis researches possible motivations starting with primarily economic and political aim of China to increase its economic footprint in the countries surrounding Indian Ocean (with the end goal of using the sites as the People's



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Liberation Army Navy military bases) to building off bases for military protection of its sea lanes of communication. The author selected ports of the Indian Ocean region, including the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab, the Arabian Sea, the Laccadive Sea, the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea, and the Gulf of Thailand, as case studies.

The research questions were chosen well by the author with a corresponding theoretical underpinning. The theories are, however, rather briefly and not thoroughly discussed, focusing on geopolitics, Mahan's sea power theory and neoclassical realism - despite this, the theoretical chapter is sufficient for the thesis. Methodology is well developed and original, combining factors already outlined by Mahan and developing new sets of variables for testing hypotheses.

The main plus of the thesis is rigorous research. The thesis demonstrates the author's full grasp of the problem and clear line of reasoning.

Minor criteria:

The thesis is analytical, well-structured, engaging for the reader and overall of a very good quality. Sources are well-chosen and adequate. While occasional typos occur in the thesis, they do not confuse the reader. The author adhered to the citation style and all formal criteria imposed on an academic text.

Overall evaluation:

A well-structured analytical thesis building on an up-to-date literature with a solid theoretical background and original methodology.

Suggested grade: A

Signature:

Wanda Karel'ska