Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Dóra Béres

Title: The main causes of migration in the Middle East: Is migration predominantly caused by armed conflicts?

Programme/year: International Security Studies, 2021

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	6
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	30	19
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	23
Total		80	48
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	7
	Style	5	3
	Formal requirements	5	3
Total		20	13
TOTAL		100	61

Evaluation

Major criteria:

The author asks an important question with profound implications in both academic and political contexts. The search for the causes of migration has recently become a key topic in debates across Europe (and elsewhere, in different contexts). Thus far, the dissertation's research goal is worthwhile and laudable.

Unfortunately, the author's approach is problematic on several levels. First and foremost, the methodology selected to answer the research question ("What is the main factor behind the migration process in the Middle East?") can hardly achieve such a goal, as it focuses mostly on descriptive analysis of migration itself and its link with armed conflicts, not devising any specific means of weighing this factor against the other intervening variables.

Secondly, the text is structurally quite unbalanced, with e.g. just two pages devoted to the identification of major contemporary security challenges or a single short paragraph dedicated to literature review (sic!).

On the other hand, the author managed to put together relatively detailed and factually relevant characterization of the two selected Middle East conflicts (Syria and Iraq – though it is not clear why the structuring of these two chapters differs between one another).

Minor criteria:

The writing style and language of the dissertation could certainly have been improved, so to describe both as acceptable seems a proper characterization. The final list of sources is factually split in two parts which are, however, not formally indicated, leading to a strange situation of one list ending and another beginning without any clarification as to why.

Overall evaluation:

As a supervisor, I do appreciate the author's effort to continuously improve her dissertation based on my comments during the process of its writing. While the

Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Political Studies /
Smetanovo nabrezi 6, 110 01 Prague 1, Czech Republic, info@fsv.cuni.cz, tel: +420 222 112 111

www.fsv.cuni.cz

result unfortunately does not warrant a very positive assessment, I believe it is a defensible piece of academic writing.

Suggested grade: **D**

Signature: