



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Amedeo Gasparini

Title: Selected Elements of Global Politics: Theoretical aspects, common threads, and empirical divergences in three “liberal” International Relations’ Approaches

Programme/year: Master in International Relations, 2020/2021

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Jan Karlas

| Criteria | Definition | Maximum | Points |
|----------------|---|------------|--------|
| Major Criteria | | | |
| | Research question, definition of objectives | 10 | 8 |
| | Theoretical/conceptual framework | 30 | 27 |
| | Methodology, analysis, argument | 40 | 30 |
| <i>Total</i> | | <i>80</i> | 65 |
| Minor Criteria | | | |
| | Sources | 10 | 10 |
| | Style | 5 | 5 |
| | Formal requirements | 5 | 5 |
| <i>Total</i> | | <i>20</i> | 20 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | 100 | 85 |



Evaluation

Major criteria:

First of all, I would like to appreciate the topic of this MA thesis. It is not so common that an MA student decides to write a thesis focused directly on theoretical approaches. Amedeo Gasparini chose a very meaningful topic in this field – to compare some selected liberal IR approaches. I have to say that when writing the thesis he demonstrated a very strong dedication to this topic – in a degree that is beyond what is usual.

Essentially, Amedeo carried out a very good work. The thesis describes well the basic ideas of economic liberalism, democratic peace theory, and democratic realism. Above all, Amedeo succeeds in justifying that democratic realism can (in spite of its name) be considered part of the family of liberal approaches.

In the second part of the thesis, Amedeo moves to the core of the thesis – the comparison of the views of the three approaches on some selected subjects. These subjects are represented by 1) institutions and interdependence, 2) free-market and rationalism, 3) international law and anarchy, 4) conflict intervention and anarchy, and 5) nationalism and autocracies. The author managed to be focused on these topics and present a relevant analysis of the views of the selected approaches on these topics. As in the previous part, the thesis is marked by a high number of citations, which demonstrates Amedeo's laborious and careful work with the literature.

Last but not least, it must be appreciated that Amedeo arranged an interview with William Kristol to get some further material for the thesis. It only proves his dedication to this work.

As for what I see to be some limitations of the thesis: the three selected approaches are not identical concerning their analytical or normative orientation. In my understanding, democratic realism is a normative perspective, the DPT is more analytical, and the EL it is developed by some authors as an analytical position and by others as a mixture of both an analytical and normative positions. This somewhat complicates their comparison. In addition, I think that the thesis also does not completely succeed in differentiating the analytical and normative goals in the key individual writings belonging to the three approaches.



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Related to this is that I suppose that in some of the cases the thesis explores the perspective of a selected approach on an issue that is not directly and explicitly discussed in detail by the representatives of the given approach. For example, the authors of the DPT do not write in depth about free-market and rationalism, etc. Hence, in such cases it is difficult to state what the approach really claims about the given topic. I hence just wonder to what extent in some of the cases the descriptions provided by the author are really the positions of the representatives of the given approaches and to what extent these descriptions reflect what the author thinks that those representatives could potentially say (but do not truly say) about the very same subject.

Minor criteria:

No comments

Overall evaluation:

A very good thesis that nicely explores the selected topic and demonstrates author's dedication to the topic. The thesis provides a well-done presentation of the three approaches. My concerns are about somewhat different orientation of the approaches (analytical and normative) and a consequent difficulty in their comparison, and a certain mismatch between the content of the writings associated with the given approaches and some of the analyzed topics that were selected by the author of the thesis.

Suggested grade:

B

Signature: