



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: International Relations/2021

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Mgr. Anna Kotvalová

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	25
<i>Total</i>		<i>80</i>	60
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		<i>20</i>	18
TOTAL		100	78



Evaluation

Major criteria:

Presented master thesis tries to compare Economic liberalism (EL), Democratic peace theory (DPT) and Democratic realism (DR) based on crucial liberal assumptions. The research question posted in this thesis is: *"How do EL, DPT, and DR-and their main scholars-view elements of IR?"*

The author of this thesis works with great amount of literature and demonstrates that he understands these concepts quite well. In the theoretical part, he introduces each theoretical concept in its complexity and stresses out all the relevant scholars. In the "empirical" part he "tests" each concept towards the "aspects of global politics": institutions and interdependence, free-market and rationalism, international law and anarchy, conflict intervention and security, nationalism, and autocracies. Unfortunately, most of the thesis seems to be a compilation of literature and the thesis lacks any original analysis. In most of the parts of the thesis it appears that it is a long theoretical literature review rather than coherent thesis which should always provide a reader with an argument or hypothesis, and an original analysis. Moreover, I would argue that this thesis could use an explanation or argument why the author selected these specific approaches and "aspects of global politics" in the first place since it appears to me that most of the aspects are in fact already part of the liberal tradition (even on the more realist end as in the case of DR) and therefore, it is clear from the beginning that they will be interconnected and share certain characteristics. For example, the author concludes that DR is sceptical towards rule of law but that is not surprising since it is rooted in realist spectrum. In the conclusion, page 79, the author does argue that he selected these approaches in order to provide the IR debate with "less abstraction" but this does not benefit the thesis. It might be more interesting to "test" these approaches on "real" IR issues or events or to select approaches which are not that much rooted in liberalism to start with.

Therefore, although the author does answer the research question throughout his analysis, the conclusion and analysis itself lacks any innovative or surprising conclusions which I believe was clear from the start due to the selection of theoretical approaches and liberal "aspects of global politics"



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Minor criteria:

From the formal perspective, the thesis is well written and established. The analysis is well structured (introduction, depiction of each approach, summary). Although the author does use an untypical form for direct citation (« ») which I find quite unnecessary for this format.

Overall evaluation:

The author of this thesis demonstrates that he can work with great amount of literature, that he understands the presented theoretical approaches and concepts and he obviously dedicated great amount of time to this thesis. As I mentioned above, I am impressed by the literature review he presents in his work. On the other hand, it significantly lacks any original analysis (even if this thesis is predominantly theoretical), any prevailing argument or hypothesis formed based on the research question (apart from the argument that these concepts should not contradict each other on the basis of liberalism) and moreover, more general argumentation why this topic was selected in the first place. I am sure that in his defence the author can come up with one or two justifications and defend his selection, but the thesis heavily lacks this argumentation (as I mentioned in my assessment above).

Suggested grade:

C

Signature: