



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: MATĚJ DENK

Title: Breaking Free from the Dominance and Establishing Independent Policy:
The Analysis of Saudi-Qatari Relations and its Implications on the Region of
the Persian Gulf

Programme/year: BS, 2021

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): EMIL ASLAN

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptua l framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	39
<i>Total</i>		80	75
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	



Evaluation

Major criteria:

This is a solid piece of research. It draws on good knowledge of regional affairs and history; it is theory-driven, empirically sound, and innovative. Using a diachronic study of Saudi-Qatar relations as they have evolved in the course of over a century, the author sheds light on an important phenomenon of IR making a noteworthy contribution to our general (theoretical) state of knowledge.

My reservations are rather minor. First, formally speaking, using hypotheses in a piece of qualitative research is somewhat atypical; the author might have applied Rqs. Second, the author makes several inaccurate claims throughout the thesis – or claims that might be found misleading, such as the presumed lack of an 'academic book' on the Saudi-Qatar relations. Even if that were true, the lack of a book on a topic per se doesn't indicate there are no publications on the phenomenon; instead, journal articles might have written on this or different topics which would fill the gap just as well as a book. Relatedly, the lack of a book on a general phenomenon usually tells us little about the gap in the narrow topic of a thesis, which, I assume, is the case of the reviewed thesis. I would also appreciate a more nuanced focus on one single theory instead of using several theories; the latter makes the lit review somewhat distorted and the argument convoluted and blurred.

These are minor remarks though; as a whole, I consider this thesis of utmost quality and applaud the author's courage to advance an original and well-executed piece of research.

Minor criteria:

See above

Overall evaluation:

A



**FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Charles University

Suggested grade:

A

Signature: