



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Lorenzo Scarazzato

Title: Chinese Strategic Posture: The Case of Semiconductors

Programme/year: MISS 2021

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Kučera

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		<i>80</i>	64
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		<i>20</i>	20
TOTAL		100	84



Evaluation

Major criteria:

Most of the text is concerned with the technological and business aspects of semiconductors. Is it a relevant security topic? This is actually the question that Lorenzo addresses in his thesis. Its central hypothesis states that semiconductors can be framed and better understood as part of the defence industry in China. The information-rich empirical analysis of the Chinese strategy towards semiconductor's autonomy is theoretically framed in the literature on arms trade, dual-use technology and export control.

A stimulating review of theoretical literature and information-rich analysis of the global supply chain and the Chinese policies towards autarky in semiconductor production represent a distinct strength of this dissertation. Its weakness, however, is in the lack of explicit research design/methodological chapter. A reader is left in doubt as to what the empirical analysis would present, what kind of data is relevant and what conditions may prove or reject the hypothesis. Out of a sudden, the last chapter presents two scenarios; however, their instrumentality remains implicit.

Minor criteria:

Checked for plagiarism.

Overall evaluation:

This thesis engages in an important and timely topic. It presents a large amount of information, and the text is potentially beneficial to those interested in the subject. Unfortunately, this informative quality is not accompanied by sufficient methodological preparation.

Suggested grade: B

Signature: