



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Lorenzo Scarazzato

Title: Chinese Strategic Posture The Case of Semiconductors

Programme/year: 2020/2021

Author of Evaluation (external assessor): Kateřina Urbancová

| Criteria | Definition | Maximum | Points |
|----------------|---|------------|--------|
| Major Criteria | | | |
| | Research question, definition of objectives | 10 | 5 |
| | Theoretical/conceptual framework | 30 | 23 |
| | Methodology, analysis, argument | 40 | 17 |
| <i>Total</i> | | <i>80</i> | 45 |
| Minor Criteria | | | |
| | Sources | 10 | 8 |
| | Style | 5 | 5 |
| | Formal requirements | 5 | 3 |
| <i>Total</i> | | <i>20</i> | 16 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | 100 | 61 |



Evaluation

Major criteria:

Diploma thesis is lacking a clearly formulated research target and research question that would be answered. Author operates with hypothesis claiming that: „...in the Chinese case, semiconductors can be framed and better understood as part of the defence industry because integrated circuits are a cornerstone in the strategy Beijing is deploying to swing the global balance of power.“ (p4) which is more of a statement of truth rather than a starting point for further investigation.

Thesis is lacking a chapter on methodology. Author has mentioned several times that he applied the approach of case study but there is a confusion about whether the case is China (p1, p64) or semiconductors (p2). There is no information on what type of case study author applied which should be one of the topics for the defence. When it comes to sources of primary data author only briefly mentioned that: „Whenever possible, primary sources are employed, such as texts of policies, memorandums, and official documents. Nonetheless, given the language barrier, the work relies extensively on secondary sources. The existing literature is integrated with databases, newspapers articles, and think tank reports and translations.“ (p5) Literary review and analytical techniques are missing completely. Empirical – analytical sections is more or less compilation of secondary literature.

Minor criteria:

Author proved advanced level of English. Some terms used in the thesis would benefit from short explanation in the footnotes (such as Leading Small Groups, Social Credit System project etc.).

Overall evaluation:

Student has chosen very actual and important topic. Thesis was very interesting and readable. Unfortunately, the diploma thesis did not fulfil all of the formal requirements but I do personally believe that there is lot of work and effort behind the writing. During the defence author should focus on methodological approach and how does the thesis add to current literature on the topic.

Suggested grade: D



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Signature: