



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Niels Oldemeier

Title: What is the Strategic Impact of Chinese Anti-Access and Area-Denial Capabilities on the Offence-Defence Balance in East Asia? A Comparative Case Study of the United States and Japan

Programme/year: MISS 2021

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Kučera

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	36
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	73
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	93



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The strategic balance in East Asia is undoubtedly one of the most important issues in current international politics. Niels's work focuses on the role of Chinese A2/AD capabilities in the potential change of regional power balance. Using the concept of offence-defence balance (ODB), he observes that the strategic balance in East Asia is not impacted uniformly. While the effect on the ODB with Japan is limited and the defensive advantage is likely to dominate the Sino-Japanese relationship, the Sino-American balance changes towards the Chinese offensive advantage.

Importantly, the findings rest on a very competent analytical approach. In the first analytical stage, Niels describes the military capabilities (force size, force employment, technology) of individual actors (China, Japan, the USA); this information is subsequently utilised in two scenarios (Chinese invasion of Senkaku Islands and Chinese attack on Taiwan).

The analysis is compelling and demonstrates Niels's excellent analytical skills. Nonetheless, it does not mean that there would be no space for improvement. The description of the actor's capabilities, though instrumental, could be made clearer and less tedious. This applies first and foremost to the 'Force size' section, which would deserve a more reader-friendly presentation in the table-form. Also, some sort of comparative summary of the fifth chapter would be helpful.

Since the scenarios are the core of the argument, they would deserve more space (8 pages in total) and, consequently, greater depth of analysis.

### Minor criteria:

ok

plagiarism-free



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Overall evaluation:

This thesis provides a clear and compelling picture of East Asia's strategic balance and demonstrates the author's competence and excellent analytical skills.

Suggested grade: A

Signature: