

# MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

*GPS – Geopolitical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University*

<b>Thesis title:</b>	Why Japan cancelled the deployment of the Aegis Ashore missile defense system
<b>Name of Student:</b>	Aritake Shuhei
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	Martin Riegl
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	January 14, 2022

The thesis has been checked by anti-plagiarism software.

**Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the four numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).**

## 1) Contribution and argument:

I value the topic selection which is really up to date given the deteriorating geostrategic environment in East Asia. The paper is highly relevant for the study of geopolitics and provides a good contribution to the field. The author provides a well-informed paper and detailed insight into Japan's decision to abandon deployment of the Aegis Ashore missile defense system by analyzing domestic political factors, changes in strategic culture, and different threat perceptions between the US and Japan. One can agree with author's conclusions that are based on detailed well grounded arguments.

## 2) Theoretical and methodological framework

The submitted paper reacts to neoclassical realism and its assumptions regarding state behavior in order to find an alternative explanation (as the neorealist approach fails to provide a reasonable explanation) of Japan's decision to abandon the analyzed project. In the theoretical part of the thesis, the author discusses variations of realism, conceptualizes concepts such as security dilemma, history of the Japanese pacifist approach in its foreign policy, so one might say, the paper has a clear theoretical framework that is sufficiently linked to the empirical part of the paper. Methodological approach of author is with regards to variables he chose to analyze.

## 3) Sources and literature:

Both theoretical and empirical parts are based on a solid amount of relevant sources.

## 4) Manuscript form and structure:

There are minor issues, not frequent, such as missing punctuation. What I miss in the paper is the thesis project that is supposed to be part of the thesis. Unfortunately the text of the thesis, excluding list of resources is some 48 pages (approximately 87 000), which is under the required limit of 90 000 characters, for that reason I had to deduct points for formal requirements.

## 5) Quality of presentation

The quality of language and style is appropriate. The presented text is coherent and allows fluent reading.

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	35

<i>Theoretical and methodological framework</i>	<i>(max. 25 points)</i>	23
<i>Sources and literature</i>	<i>(max. 10 points)</i>	10
<i>Manuscript form and structure</i>	<i>(max. 15 points)</i>	5
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence)</i>	<i>(max. 10 points)</i>	7
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<i>(max. 100 points)</i>	<b>80</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)</b>		<b>C</b>

**Suggested questions for the defence are:**

**I recommend the thesis for final defence.**

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**Referee Signature**

**Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:**

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	<b>A</b>	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	<b>B</b>	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	<b>C</b>	= good
61 – 70	<b>D</b>	= satisfactory
51 – 60	<b>E</b>	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	<b>F</b>	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.