

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2507490 DCU Charles 685684 Trento 225141
Dissertation Title	China's rise and rivalry with the US in the 21st century: challenges for nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear reversal

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade	Late Submission Penalty Select from drop down list
Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)		
Word Count: 20311 Suggested Penalty: Select from drop down list		

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).
Before Penalty: B1 [17] After Penalty: Select from drop down list

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Excellent
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Very Good
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Very Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Very Good
B. Use of Source Material	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i>	Very Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent

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• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Yes
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

China's rise challenges the U.S. preeminence in international politics and transforms numerous aspects of global affairs, including the global nuclear order. Understanding what the rise of China causes for nonproliferation and a nuclear reversal is undoubtedly a worthy endeavor. This dissertation could be applauded for addressing the implications of US-China rivalry on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear reversal.

There is much to like about the dissertation. Most importantly, it is an excellent empirical study of China's and U.S. relations with three regions: Korea, South Asia, and the Middle East. These three regions play a critical role in the global nuclear order. The case studies are meticulously researched and well-written.

My only concern about the dissertation is its almost exclusively empirical character with a bit unclear objective beyond description. Having read it, I am still unsure what question it addresses and what contribution it makes. The dissertation touches upon the power transition theory but does not really use it much. Similarly, the methodological section tells the reader about case studies but not about analytical techniques, data, and evidentiary standards.

I think the dissertation would have benefited from laying out its objectives more clearly and addressing them with a more explicit analytical framework. The introduction is limited to introducing the empirical phenomena but does not introduce the analysis, objectives, methods, and contribution to the existing conversations among experts.

Overall, I think this is a very good dissertation that borders excellence despite the caveats above. It is neatly written, meticulously researched, and empirically excellent.

Reviewer 2

This is a very good dissertation. The research problem is clearly defined, the case studies' selection is well justified. The Author demonstrated their familiarity with the literature on the topic of nuclear proliferation and nuclear reversal.

There is, however, a lot of room for improvement. The literature review chapter would have benefitted from broader engagement with the debates about the sources and timing of the emergence of open Sino-American rivalry. The theoretical framework could have been strengthened by a more systematic and critical approach to power transition theories. The analysis of case studies does not clearly distinguish between periods of relatively good Sino-US relations and the phase of open rivalry that can be dated back to 2017/18.



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