



Supervisor's MA thesis Review

Author: Kan Prateepjinda

Title: *Terrorism in Popular Culture: A Discourse Analysis of the Portrayal of IRA Terrorism in Films*

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Co-supervisor: dr. Vít Strátecký

Kan's thesis offers a highly original analysis of terrorism as it is portrayed in the movies. Most specifically, the thesis focuses on the discourse of the IRA terrorism formed by several movies reflecting the periods of IRA's severe activity.

From the theoretical perspective the thesis generally draws on the literature from the field of critical security studies and more specifically on the research focusing on the way through which movies or "imageries" influence the construction of popular but also official discourses about political/security matters. The theoretical framework is also enriched by the elements of film/visual media theory. Methodologically, the thesis intends to apply Foucauldian genealogy to trace the evolution of the meaning of the IRA terrorism.

Kan's is undoubtedly extremely strong in interpretation while his ability goes beyond anything I have experienced in IR literature. I also must admit that I find his "excessive interpretation" interesting and mostly convincing. I also



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appreciate Kan's ability to situate his research into the discipline. Both in terms of working with the sources as well as their number the thesis is highly above-average. My crucial critical point would be lined to the application of the proposed methodology. The graphics are somewhat extraordinary but perhaps cannot represent the application of genealogy. Nevertheless, there are relevant elements of discursive strategies in the interpretations showing that Kan is capable of applying critical discourse analysis.

All in all, this is by far the most original thesis (even academic piece) that I have ever read and I admit that I am not able to fully grasp it. Nevertheless, those elements that I can honestly evaluate would deserve almost excellent grade.

Evaluation: A/B

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