

Jakub Herout

M.A. Dissertation Evaluation

U.S. Maritime Security-Strategies and Measures Applied

2017

Jakub Herout has written his M.A. dissertation on the issue of United States maritime security. The topic is both challenging and relevant to the ongoing debate on national and international security. The treatise consists of an Introduction, five main chapters, and a Conclusion. Though I am somewhat satisfied with the work, Jakub's written English definitely requires improvement. In the paragraphs that follow, I shall comment upon each part of the work.

In the Introduction, Jakub clearly states his goal, which is to explain the factors involved in United States maritime security since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. There is a clearly defined research question and Jakub's knowledge of theory is rather impressive. This case study involves qualitative content analysis based upon excellent sources. The evaluation of the literature is also good.

Chapter 1 deals with conceptualization. Jakub demonstrates a grasp of the relevant ideas and factors. A minor criticism that I have is that there seems to be too much repetition of what others have written and a clearer indication of how the concepts discussed can be applied to the topic of the work, namely maritime security, would be desirable.

In Chapter 2, Jakub addresses maritime threats. He correctly writes that the threats are determined through the process of securitization. Though more descriptive than analytical, Jakub does get his point across.

Chapter 3 represents a discussion of whether or not it is actually worthwhile to invest in maritime security taking into account the likelihood of a terrorist attack happening and the cost of further security measures. I am sorry to say that, although Jakub does get his point across, his use of the English language makes it somewhat difficult at times to understand where he is coming from.

In Chapter 4, Jakub provides somewhat of a historical background in combination with changes that transpired after 11 September 2001. He discusses how strategy regarding maritime security changed from being defensive to preventive or preemptive. He discusses American national security strategy, the U.S. Navy, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Chapter 5 evaluates the policies of Presidents Bush and Obama. Jakub recapitulates the narrative of what transpired. Again, his command of written English makes the chapter harder to understand than should be the case. Nevertheless, I think he does get his main points across.

The Conclusion represents a summary of Jakub's main points and he states at the end that complete maritime security can be achieved only by shutting down the transportation system. This is obviously an unrealistic notion, so the logical

conclusion is that maritime security can be enhanced, but no enhancement will result in absolute security.

I think that, despite the poor command of written English and some unnecessary textbook descriptions of what national security entails, this thesis is acceptable. I think that the oral defense will be important. I recommend a classification of **very good** or **good** based upon the quality of the oral defense.

.....Prague, 19 June 2017
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