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External Examiner Post-Defence and Post-Redraft Report for

Aleš Karmazin
'Non-Western Approaches to Statehood: Cases of China and India'
Charles University, Prague, May 2019

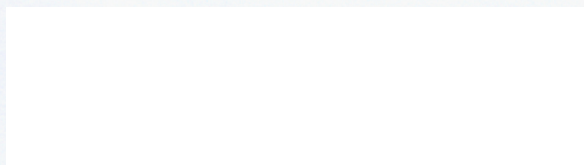
The examiner has received and reviewed this re-drafted and re-submitted PhD thesis, and is happy to report that the vast majority of his Pre-Defence recommendations have been acknowledged and – in the main – implemented. These changes have been carried out in a methodical manner and, whilst some elements could have been better delivered, have led to a much enhanced, more coherent and more logical final product that much better articulates, analyses and elucidates the candidate's central arguments. The candidate's clear efforts concerning these critical improvements are to be praised.

In particular –

- through the increased use of signposting / explicit structuring in each Chapter, the workings of each Chapter are much better explained, the thesis' Chapters much better inter-linked into a more lucid dissertation, and the thesis' main narratives much more clearer shown. Shorter paragraphs and a less dense writing style have further bolstered these strengths in the work;
- via the more unambiguous use of theory, the work's major use of scaling and sovereignty both also became much more pronounced. In particular, the candidate did much better in explaining the use of the theory, most beneficially via the use of Figures in the concluding sections of each Chapter which did an excellent job of showing their application across the different case studies. Effort was also made to operationalise key terms and to produce a much more integrated thesis that effectively interspersed and inter-connected its theoretical and empirical elements. As such, "scaling" and "sovereignty" were successfully placed at the forefront of the thesis. That stated, the theoretical content could have been higher at times;
- with a higher level of justification concerning the major intellectual choices undertaken – such as concerning the selection of case studies, theory and discourses – the work succeeded in producing a more convincing and intelligible thesis. In this regard, the cross-comparison of scaling across the different case studies, as presented in the overall Conclusions, was of much value (although a full cross-comparison of the cases would still have been even more fruitful). At times, the justifications were not so credible or believable (for example concerning focusing on some discourses and not others) and some key definitions were missing; most obviously norms – which are highly contested – despite their ongoing usage and is something that ought to be fully resolved moving forward towards any publications;

Recommendation for the Examination Board

Overall, for the reasons detailed above, I am pleased to recommend that this thesis be Passed.



Edinburgh, May 1 2019