



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Eliška Křížová

Title: Analysis of the impact of Russia's armed actions on Finland's security:
towards NATO membership

Programme/year: Security Studies / 2024

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Jan Ludvík

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	28
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	73
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	18
TOTAL		100	91



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis effectively presents a clear and well-motivated research question addressing Finland's shift towards NATO membership due to perceived threats from Russia. The objectives are well-aligned with this question, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the topic. However, the rationale for selecting the theoretical framework could be improved. While the chosen framework is relevant, the thesis would benefit from a more detailed explanation of why it was selected over other potential frameworks (i.e. domestic politics, norms etc.).

The literature review is comprehensive but could be improved by providing a more detailed discussion of existing works on Finland's neutrality, reasons for joining NATO, and specific literature on Finnish neutrality. Key works, such as Roy Allison's study on neutrality, should be included to enhance the depth of the review. This would help situate the research more effectively within the broader academic discourse.

The analytical framework is particularly systematic, which is a great strength of the thesis. The empirical analysis is meticulously researched, providing substantial evidence to support the conclusion that Finland joined NATO primarily due to the Russian threat following the invasion of Ukraine. However, the analysis could be improved by considering additional factors such as domestic politics and the symbolism of Western unity. Additionally, the use of data from the Global Firepower Index, which has methodological limitations, should be reconsidered to strengthen the robustness of the empirical findings. Overall, while the thesis is strong, these enhancements would elevate its quality further.

Minor criteria:

The thesis employs a comprehensive range of sources, although the literature review could benefit from including more extensive discussions of existing works on neutrality and NATO membership. The writing style is clear, coherent, and academic, contributing to a well-structured and easy-to-follow text. The thesis meets all formal requirements, including proper formatting, citation style, and length. However, the inclusion of key works and a broader range of sources would enhance the overall depth and context of the research.



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Assessment of plagiarism:

Based on the anti-plagiarism software checks, it is formally confirmed that the submitted thesis is original and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, does not, in an ethically unacceptable manner, draw from the works of other authors.

Overall evaluation:

This thesis presents a well-explained and motivated research question that addresses a significant puzzle in international relations: why Finland chose to join NATO. Overall, this is a very good thesis, bordering on excellent, deserving a grade of A/B range. However, there are some areas that could be improved, particularly in the rationale for the theoretical framework and the literature review.

Suggested grade: A/B

Signature: