



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Edries Barna

Title: Afghanistan's Geopolitical and Geostrategic Importance for International Security: A Great Game Theory Analysis of Its Role Across Three Centuries

Programme/year: International Security Studies, 2024

Author of Evaluation (opponent): Tomáš Karásek

| Criteria | Definition | Maximum | Points |
|-----------------------|---|------------|-----------|
| Major Criteria | | | |
| | Research question, definition of objectives | 10 | 5 |
| | Theoretical/conceptual framework | 30 | 14 |
| | Methodology, analysis, argument | 40 | 19 |
| <i>Total</i> | | 80 | 38 |
| Minor Criteria | | | |
| | Sources | 10 | 7 |
| | Style | 5 | 3 |
| | Formal requirements | 5 | 3 |
| <i>Total</i> | | 20 | 13 |
| TOTAL | | 100 | 51 |



Evaluation

Major criteria:

There is no doubt that Afghanistan has repeatedly played a highly important role in international politics, most recently in the aftermath of 9/11 attacks by Al Qaeda that found refuge in the country under the Taliban regime. The author is thus completely right to claim that the 'great game' surrounding Afghanistan is a topic worth studying.

A lot of effort has apparently been invested into the thesis and the author's deep interest in the topic is beyond doubt. His ability to base the thesis in a wide, robust selection of literature is also to be lauded.

Beyond the aforementioned aspects, though, much has gone astray in the thesis. The 'theoretical' framework remains only notional, and the outline of methodology is so convoluted it is dubious it can serve any meaningful purpose. The text that, in its title, promises a conceptually anchored analysis across a long historical stretch eventually ends up presenting highly selective reflections of a handful of interviewees on the most contemporary aspects of the country's security issues

Minor criteria:

The text features a non-negligible amount of typos, spelling errors and wrong (or fluctuating) use of capital letters. At some places, the meaning of the text is barely comprehensible. The length of the text borders on the binding minimal requirements.



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Assessment of plagiarism:

The thesis does not exhibit traits of plagiarism.

Overall evaluation:

This is a thesis that was evidently written with an earnest intent and intimate insight into the complexities of Afghanistan's security. Unfortunately, the theoretical/conceptual, methodological and analytical properties of the text are of limited quality. As a result, the thesis only just crosses the threshold for a text acceptable for defence.

Suggested grade:

E

Signature: