



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: MISS 2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/~~external assessor~~): doc. Vit Stritecky

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	5
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	19
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	20
<i>Total</i>		80	44
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	5
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	2
<i>Total</i>		20	11
TOTAL		100	55



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The present thesis deals with the geopolitical and geostrategic significance of Afghanistan. It examines this issue in the context of the so-called Great Game, which represents a recurring geopolitical context.

The thesis is introduced by a basic literature focusing on the Great Game and an elementary overview of the development of Afghan geopolitics. The authors somewhat inaccurately associate the Great Game with British, American or EU efforts to gain economic control over Afghanistan, a somewhat reductive view. Insufficient attention is also paid to relations with neighbouring countries, which play a crucial role in ethnically and linguistically diverse Afghanistan.

The fundamental problem with the thesis lies in its unclear design, which is mirrored by an unconvincing methodology. The authors offer a general methodological discussion, but the analysis itself is unconvincing. The questionnaire survey lacks detailed data and is clearly of very limited analytical value. The situation is similar with the interviews, which are to be analysed using thematic analysis.

Research-wise, the paper brings almost nothing new to the table, but there is no denying that the authors are well versed in empirical research. The conclusions of the thesis can be described as plausible in a general sense, but it is difficult to connect them with the methodological operations performed.

Minor criteria:

From a formal point of view, the thesis meets the requirements for a master's thesis. The text contains too many direct quotations, but the language is clear. The source base is solid especially in the empirical part, the theoretical part could be more extensive.

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



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not, in an ethically unacceptable manner, draw from the works of other authors.

Overall evaluation:

Overall, the thesis can be recommended for defence. It has notable limitations in the field of research design, but it meets at least the minimum requirements. It is important to note that it reflects the tremendous progress in academic work that Edries has made in our program.



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Suggested grade: E

Signature