

Name of the student:	Viktoriiia Kravchyk	
Title of the thesis:	Political Myth as a Foreign Policy Instrument: Case Study of Russian Myth of ‘Great Patriotic War’	
Reviewer:	Dr hab. Krzysztof Kowalski	

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The thesis investigates an important topic of myth, mythologization and its impact on international politics in the case of the Russian Federation especially after the breakout of the war in Ukraine. The objective is well-defined and the selection of research material is adequate to the research goal. The literature review draws on the concept of myth on the one hand, and the case of ‘Great Patriotic War’ on the other hand.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

Overall, the logic and argumentation is sound and coherent, the method and justification of the selection of analysed cases (speeches of V. Putin) is appropriate. The application of theory does not raise questions.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The thesis is written in a clear and coherent manner, providing a good overview of the analysed topic, and linking well the theoretical discussions on myth, myth making with the context of the war Russia-Ukraine. The selected speeches by Putin are studied thoroughly, with the support of secondary materials, and they do provide sufficient insight to the issue of the myth of ‘Great Patriotic War’, which is the main objective of the research. The empirical section benefits clearly from an analytical approach, and finally the thesis leads to interesting conclusions.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The thesis is well written, with appropriate academic vocabulary, follows a clear structure. The citation style and editing is coherent across the thesis.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The thesis is original and very (!) interesting, it embarked on a rather sensitive topic that touches the ongoing war in Ukraine in the perspective of use of the myth of ‘Great Patriotic War’ as a justification of atrocities being committed by the Russian army since 2022. The scope of the research is narrowed down to the study of particular speeches by Putin (and positions expressed by selected Russian embassies), which is logical from the point of view of feasibility. The theoretical scope is also appropriately defined. The thesis links in a pronounced and intriguing way the theoretical concepts and the analysed material. I have no hesitation to give the highest Polish grade which is 5,0.

Grade (A-F):	5,0 / very good = A
Date:	Signature:
4.07.2024	Dr hab. Krzysztof Kowalski (electronic signature)

classification scheme

Percentile	Prague		Krakow		Leiden		Barcelona	
	Range	%	Score	%	Range	%	Range	%
A (91-100)	91-100 %	8,5%	5	6,7%	8,5-10	5,3%	9-10	5,5 %
B (81-90)	81-90 %	16,3%	4,5	11,7%	7,5-8,4	16,4%	8-8,9	11,0 %
C (71-80)	71-80 %	16,3%	4	20%	6,5-7,4	36,2%	7-7,9	18,4 %
D (61-70)	61-70 %	24%	3,5	28,3%			6-6,9	35,2 %
E (51-60)	51-60 %	34,9%	3	33,4 %	6-6,4	42,1 %	5-5,9	30,1 %

Assessment criteria:

Excellent (A): 'Outstanding performance with only minor errors';

Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';

Good (C): 'Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';

Satisfactory (D): 'Fair but with significant shortcomings';

Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';

Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.