



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Elizaveta Gribanova

Title: Deradicalization Programs in the MENA Region Countries: A Comparative Study of Libya and Saudi Arabia

Programme/year: International Security Studies with specialisation in Global and Regional Security/2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Markéta Kocmanová

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	28
<i>Total</i>		80	56
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	6
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	14
TOTAL		100	70



Evaluation

Major criteria:

This Master's thesis presents a comparative study of deradicalization programmes in Libya and Saudi Arabia aiming to assess their impact on the security environment in both countries. The intended comparison of the selected countries is highly pertinent not only because it analyses contrasting cases of individual and group-based deradicalization programmes, but also due to the implications it may carry for deradicalization efforts related to the ISIS returnees in Europe.

Even though sincere effort was made to provide a well-structured comparative analysis, the thesis suffers from several issues that prevent the thesis from fully completing its research objectives. To name the most patent ones, the student did not manage to gather sufficiently ample empirical data for the Libyan case which consequently did not enable the author to perform a thorough empirical analysis of the case and efficiently compare it with the corresponding Saudi programme, especially in the deradicalization methods as one of the four criteria established for comparison. Due to insufficient empirical base, the empirical analysis is rendered slightly imbalanced, putting too much emphasis on the analysis of 'hard' counter-terrorism measures, instead of the focusing on the non-coercive elements related to deradicalization and their appropriate assessment in terms of their impact. However, despite the abovementioned shortcomings, Elizaveta manages to address her main research question adequately and provides an equally adequate assessment of the programmes' implications for the security situation in the region.

Minor criteria:

The thesis is well structured and the quality of academic style is relatively solid.

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.



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Overall evaluation:

The thesis can be recommended for defense. Even though Elizaveta did not fully succeed in providing a balanced, empirically rich, and accurate analysis of the deradicalization programmes in both countries, she demonstrated an acceptable level of ability in producing a well-structured and purposeful academic work.

Suggested grade:

C/D

Signature: