

Name of the student:	Stella Avetisyan
Title of the thesis:	From Silence to Recognition: Exploring the Evolving Discourse on the Armenian Genocide by US Presidents
Reviewer:	Josep Ibáñez

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

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

The research is properly designed, with a clearly defined research question and hypothesis. It is a relevant topic which is addressed with an innovative and systematic approach. A proper literature review addresses the US-Armenia Relations and the international recognition of the Armenian genocide.

2. ANALYSIS

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

The qualitative methodology of the dissertation intends to test the initial hypothesis in a systematic and organized manner, resorting both to Qualitative Comparative Analysis and discourse analysis. There is a sound theoretical framework backing the empirical approach in the second part of the dissertation. The references used in the research reflect an extensive review of pertinent sources, and the use of primary sources is rigorous and pertinent.

3. CONCLUSIONS

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

The research plan is executed in a way which makes it possible to test the initial hypothesis. The conclusions reflect the findings of the comparative analysis conducted in the second part of the dissertation. The final results achieve the research objectives initially defined.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

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

All formal aspects of the thesis meet the highest standards: use of language, citation style, academic practices, layout, etc.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

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

This is an excellent research work. Very soundly crafted, well-structured, and achieving valuable results in a systematic and rigorous manner. Both the theoretical framework and, especially, the empirical study of the US presidential discourses on the Armenian genocide meet the highest standards of a research work.

Some weak points of the dissertation:

- 1) Inability to offer a theoretical framework connected to the main debates in International Relations theories. The paper can easily be considered as a constructivist contribution to the field of foreign policy analysis.
- 2) Limited scope of the paper, since it is focused exclusively on the US presidential statements of the last three US Administrations.
- 3) The paper falls short of addressing the implications derived from the findings. Beyond adding 'to the body of knowledge on the Armenian Genocide' (p. 32), the author should have considered how the shifting discourse in the US foreign policy has affected (or could affect) the bilateral relationship and the international consideration of the Armenian genocide.

Grade (A-F)	8.0 - C
Date	Signature
27/06/2020	