

Name of the student:	Yervand Aleksanyan
Title of the thesis:	The European Integration Policy of the Republic of Armenia Before and After the 2020 War
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 a systematic approach. A proper literature review addresses the European Integration Efforts by Armenia, although with a rather weak theoretical framework.

**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. It resorts to a systematic description of the European integration policies of Armenia before and after the 2020 war. The theoretical backing of the main argument is rather limited. The references used in the research reflect the appropriate use of pertinent sources (both primary and bibliography).

**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 between the European integration policy of Armenia before the 2020 war and after the 2020 war. But they do it in a somehow confusing, even contradictory, way. Whereas in the introduction it is hypothesized that 'after the War, the country's policies began to lean more and more toward isolationism and Russia... [and] Armenia persistently pursued a pro-European integration agenda even after the conflict', the first conclusion states that 'while Armenia was actively pursuing deeper relations with the European Union prior to the war, the post-war scenario has resulted in a significant change toward a more pronounced pro-European integration agenda'. A key question remains: Is this constitutive of continuity or change in the European integration policy by Armenia?

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

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

Most formal aspects of the thesis meet the required standards in terms of use of language, citation style, academic practices, layout, etc.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

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

This is a very good research work. It is well-structured and executed, and achieves some valuable results in a systematic and rigorous manner. The empirical study of the evolution of the European integration policies by Armenian largely fulfils the requirements of a research work and goes some way to advance our understanding of the matter.

Some weak points:

- 1) Lack of a sound and extensive theoretical framework.
- 2) Lack of analytical depth, with more description than analysis in some parts of the dissertation.
- 3) Confusing presentation of conclusions, both in relation to the initial hypothesis and beyond the focus of the research.

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