



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Camilla Biolcati

Title: The expansion of ISWAP in the Lake Chad Basin

Programme/year: MISS/2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Bohumil Doboš

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	15
<i>Total</i>		80	48
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	7
	Style	5	2
	Formal requirements	5	2
<i>Total</i>		20	11
TOTAL		100	69



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The stated aim of thesis is to develop through a combination of political geography and counterinsurgency an analysis of the territorial spread of ISWAP in the Lake Chad Region. The text itself, however, is too focused on internal developments and does not systematically cover the selected topic. This means that the conclusion does not even reflect upon the research questions picked in the introduction. Thus, the large amount of data presented seems more like a way of the student to highlight her knowledge of the topic rather than a systematic analysis leading to answering the RQs.

The work presents some problematic claims as far as leniency of ISWAP towards civilians goes. It overstates the population-centric approach that is definitely higher compared to Shekau's faction but still rather low. Some data are left uncited and several parts could have been shorter. Large parts of the text do not deal with the territorial question that should be the core of the thesis.

Minor criteria:

There are numerous issues with language and formatting. The work would need further review to avoid these. Many paragraphs are unnecessarily long. There are some minor irregularities in referencing. None of these issues, however, are prohibitive to understand the author's argument.

Assessment of plagiarism:

No cases of plagiarism identified.

Overall evaluation:

The thesis picks a very important topic of the territorial spread of ISWAP in the Lake Chad Region. It aims to map the developments and identify the tools used by the group to establish territorial control in the cross-border area. That is a very interesting and important research topic. The analysis itself, however, diverges significantly from the stated goal. It presents an in-depth analysis of the Islamist insurgency in the north-eastern Nigeria focusing on numerous topics irrelevant to the RQs like ideology or technological development. In the end, this leads to author developing a more general text on ISWAP without a possibility to answer the research questions.



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Suggested grade: D

Signature: