



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Jiří Svoboda

Title: The evolution of Far-Right political parties and movements in the Czech Republic

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia / 2022-2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Jonathan Collins

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	31
<i>Total</i>		80	63
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	18
TOTAL		100	81



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis offers an intriguing look into the developments of the far-right in the Czech Republic as an independent republic (1993 – 2023). Importantly, it is not a formulaic tale of chronological ordering or historical fact-checking. Rather, the work is fascinating because it highlights what exactly it meant and means to be a far-right political party across the multifaceted and differentiated campaigns of this 30-year stretch. This encapsulation is where the thesis shines, capturing the ebb and flow of the different parties.

The research question offers a decent starting point for what could be categorized as a comparative study: “How have Czech far-right parties developed, changed, or stayed the same from 1993 to 2023?” The literature review also backs up the query, showcasing the current gap in transformative far-right shifts in the country – with research thus far too focused on current or past phenomena with limited linkages between the two. This how is then operationalized using Mudde’s and Carter’s definitional components. However, what is missing here is a greater explanation of the elements selected instead of relying on Mudde’s judgement. Perhaps it is unsurprising for a work on far-right political movements to rely heavily on Cas Mudde. But there must be better argumentation on why these components were selected over the many other prolific scholars in the field. Finally, it also must be mentioned that the review of the chosen terms is well thought out and elaborate.

The methodology is sound and offers an interesting mixed methods approach where “counting” occurrences can then be supplemented by a deeper look at the texts. Nevertheless, some discrepancies across the data used need also to be answered. There is no mention in the methodology section of the type of data the author works with, nor how much data they collected for each party. I would ask them to address this in the defence (be specific), discuss why they chose the particular content, and if these selections are comparable. I understand that earlier sources are harder to come by, but would these documents be similar to the social media posts of SPD?



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I enjoyed reading the analysis, compartmentalized into Mudde's and Carter's operationalized elements. There is a nice mix of content to pick through, where the author shows off their good eye for supplemental material (quotes). However, the summary and discussion of findings run a bit short, and I miss out on the author's argumentation across the different potential transformations. Which leads to my final question: What is the impact of the study for the security studies community? There is a brief mention of the work's importance for scholars, but I would like the author to expand on this for the committee. Only briefly do you touch on this component in the conclusion (one sentence), and little is mentioned in the discussion. Put another way: Why does far-right Czech parties' political evolution matter to the reader? What is the security threat that your question and analysis help answer?

Minor criteria:

I liked the read, with the writing style up to master-level work standards. A nice amount of detail and research was put into the thesis, and I am pleased with the number of sources used in the analysis and the rest of the piece. All formal requirements are met.

Assessment of plagiarism: Work is cited appropriately with no obvious issues.

Overall evaluation:

The thesis is fascinating, with findings detailing the transformative shift of far-right political parties in the Czech Republic. The theoretical operationalization is solid and is backed up nicely by the dual qual/quant content analysis. Nevertheless, a few questions and comments need to be answered in the defence, highlighted in the review. Overall, this is a nicely done academic piece which greatly deserves defending.

Suggested grade: B/C

Signature: