



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Bc. Jiří Svoboda

Title: The Evolution of Far-Right Political Parties and Movements in the Czech Republic

Programme/year: Bezpečnostní studia/2023

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Markéta Kocmanová

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		80	64
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	2
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	15
TOTAL		100	79



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis *The Evolution of Far-Right Political Parties and Movements in the Czech Republic* by Jiří Svoboda demonstrates a commendable effort to contribute depth to the academic discourse on Far-Right formations in the Czech Republic. While the thesis seeks to enhance the understanding of the development and changes of Czech far-right parties from 1993 to 2023, it has achieved this objective only partially.

One of the notable strengths of the thesis is the well-structured theoretical framework that draws on Mudde's and Carter's defining attributes of the Far-Right. This framework, consisting of seven criteria, provides a solid foundation for analysis and has the potential to significantly advance our comprehension of Far-Right political parties and movements in the Czech Republic.

However, a challenge arises in the alignment of the research design, methodological approach, and research objectives. The content analysis approach employed lacks a comprehensive grasp of the method and its nuances. Although the author claims to adopt a mixed method approach, the actual analysis reflects what Drisko and Maschi define as basic qualitative analysis, which limits the depth of the study. The absence of relevant academic literature support for this specific approach to content analysis undermines its execution and clarity. The way the analysis is actually executed and described rather attests to a deductively approached thematic analysis that the author explicitly rejects, pointing to a lack of rigor that this method of analysis offers.

Furthermore, the data pool is limited due to the quantitative analysis approach, wherein the author graphically presents the seven analytical dimensions for each of the five cases. Consequently, the credibility of conclusions drawn, such as labeling the Worker's Party as 'the only truly nationalist far-right party or movement,' is compromised by the scarcity of empirical evidence supporting such claims.

The discussion of empirical findings is shallow and descriptive, falling short of addressing the research question comprehensively. Additionally, the thesis does not effectively link the analysis to the security dilemma it implies, and the potential benefits for security practitioners remain unexplored, as highlighted in the abstract.



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In conclusion, Jiří Svoboda's thesis showcases a laudable effort to contribute to the understanding of Far-Right formations in the Czech Republic. While the thesis has a strong theoretical foundation, its execution suffers from methodological limitations and superficial analysis, impeding a comprehensive exploration of the research question and its implications for security practitioners.

Minor criteria:

The thesis demonstrates very clear structural organization, allowing for a smooth logical flow of the arguments. Nonetheless, I have concerns regarding the use of the English language throughout the work. Implementing software tools for proofreading would have greatly assisted the student in rectifying these issues. In numerous instances, the language poses obstacles to comprehension and introduces factual inaccuracies. For instance, referring to the Munich Agreement as occurring in 1998 (page 39) and using 'which was copied by' instead of 'from' in relation to the NSDAP election leaflet (page 34) are notable examples.

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.

Overall evaluation:

Jiří's thesis is certainly worthy of recommendation for defence. Through his endeavour to chart the trajectory of the Czech Far-Right, Jiří has produced a solid piece of work. Notably, the strength lies in his choice to dissect the empirical material, albeit somewhat limited, using a comprehensive analytical framework. However, the potential inherent in this conceptual approach to offer fresh insights into the landscape of Far-Right political entities in our nation has unfortunately not been fully realized.



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Suggested grade:

B/C

Signature: