



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Theodor Bartoň

Title: The Role of Far-Right Pro-State Militias in Democratic State Systems

Programme/year: International Security Studies, 2023

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Emil Aslan

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	35
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	69
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	89



## Evaluation

**Major criteria:** This is a solid piece of research. The author carries out a rigorous analysis of ultra-right pro-state PGMs, largely focusing on the case study of Ukraine, to show the dynamics of its interactions, frictions and mutual advantages, with state. Having explored the concept(s), the thesis draws on a massive corpus of related literature to conduct a general overview of these groups just to refocus on the Ukraine case study in the next step. (Given the thesis' empirical focus on Ukraine, I'd appreciate mention of it in the title which is currently missing). The thesis is theoretically informed and, apart from several methodological caveats, draws on good data. My main – and perhaps single major – criticism rests in the fact that the thesis does too many things at the same time. Instead of looking into too many windows, from identifying the areas of friction to patronage ties to integration into state structures to ideological influences and societal acceptance – the author might have focused on a single or a combination of two or so interrelated perspectives. This is particularly true given the author's declared interest in the phenomenon per se, atop of the Ukrainian case study. Having focused on a particular research problem might have made the methods section more sensible – depending on the actual objectives of the thesis, various methodological strategies might have been deployed. Relatedly, a more focused literature review might have been conducted, with the resultant conclusion being able to speak to a specific area of the discipline and to improve our understanding of that particular area.

**Minor criteria:** Notwithstanding the above arguments, the thesis is still well-structured and well-executed. Extensive literature used.

**Assessment of plagiarism:** None detected.

**Overall evaluation:** A very good yet somewhat defocused thesis with extensive objectives.

**Suggested grade:** B

Signature:



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