



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Bjorn Mielke

Title: Advancing Space Security in the 21st Century - Private Actors and Governance of Space

Programme/year: MISS, 2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Mgr. Luka Nikolić

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	36
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	71
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	4
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	19
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	90



## Evaluation

Major criteria:

See below

Minor criteria:

See below

Overall evaluation:

This thesis tackles one of the most pressing issues of a widened and broadened agenda of security studies. The questions of commercialization of security domain, blurred border between business and politics, and virtual immersion of civilian into military sector (and the other way around) are some among most prominently treated topics. The thesis does so in a dedicated, detailed, diligent, logically coherent manner, attempting to provide as comprehensive framework as possible. Choice of theoretical approach is backed up with arguments, while methodological framework is simple, yet effective. Case selection, data sources and analysis are laid out in a straightforward manner.

All the formal requirements are satisfied, although the style could be improved by sorting out the chapters more clearly. Sources are numerous and diverse, references are consistent. There are no traces of plagiarism. The language used throughout the thesis is easy to follow with minor deficiencies and typos.

Nevertheless, I would like to raise three points that would make this thesis more analytically valuable and its research outputs even more externally valid.

First, the strongest part of the thesis is simultaneously its weakest one, depending on the perspective from which we are assessing it. Namely, defining research questions and aims so wide carries with itself a great deal of responsibility to avoid excessive compartmentalization and dilution of the analytical focus. The piece mostly successfully copes with this challenge, while one could rightfully claim that research strategy could be crafted differently. In my opinion, this topic needs to be analyzed comprehensively, including legal, economic, and political perspectives. To conclude, the thesis is not wrong for being so wide, it just needs an explanation of why the approach has been taken.

Second, taking Copenhagen school as a theoretical framework is a legitimate choice, but similarly to the previous point, requires a lot of responsibility to avoid negative heuristics. Better bridges between theoretical and empirical part would significantly improve both of them.



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Third, the thesis fails to assess the research results in a qualitative manner. In other words, it is technologically deterministic, taking for granted the influence of technological change on our lives. This could have been avoided by a simple comparison between the current impact of PSMCs on the space security and the possible scenarios for the future. This limited speculation would demonstrate the actually existing level of technological disruption. In this form, the research outputs do not fully reveal its surplus academic value, which is anyway clear and present.

Suggested grade: A -

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lukaš M.'.