



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Beatrice Cirrone

Title: The role of Private Military Security Companies in eroding state sovereignty:  
a case study from Sierra Leone

Programme/year: International Security Studies / 2022-23

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): PhDr. Zdeněk Ludvík, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptua l framework	<b>30</b>	29
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	35
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	73
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	8
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	91



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

This diploma thesis deals with a relevant and topical issue. The diploma candidate develops a sound theoretical framework, thus gaining a very solid foundation that legitimizes her subsequent empirical research. She formulates the research question in a logical and understandable way.

As far as methodology is concerned, despite limited scope, the diploma candidate undertakes the difficult method of process tracing. She has studied empirical materials and depicts empirical facts in a way to prove causal relationships between her defined variables. In the results chapter, she presents a final diagram of the detected causal process.

I appreciate that the diploma candidate tries to hold a dialogue between the theoretical background and the essence of the research findings throughout the thesis, especially in the final analysis.

Finally, I am only briefly mentioning a point that the diploma candidate has not developed in her text and which, however, and I stress this, does not in any way diminish the quality of her work. It only logically arises from the thesis background. It is the fact that the erosion of sovereignty by the action of PMCs does not necessarily mean at the same time the erosion of the state's capacity to govern. On the contrary, it can be enhanced, which, at least in theory, can open a path to strengthening (initially eroded) sovereignty.

### Minor criteria:

Paper meets the standards of an academic text.

### Overall evaluation:

Paper meets the requirements of a diploma thesis. I recommend it for defense.

### Suggested grade:

A

### Signature: