



# Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2022/2023

**Student's name and surname:** Nynke de Jong  
**Student's ID:** 81920313

**Type of the study programme:** Master's (post-Bachelor)  
**Study programme:** International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies (IMSIS)

**Study ID:** 722477

**Title of the thesis:** The Impact of Water Weaponization on Human Security: A Case Study in the Sahel  
**Thesis department:** Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)  
**Language of the thesis:** English  
**Language of defence:** English  
**Advisor:** doc. Alessandra Russo  
**Date of defence:** 21.09.2023    **Venue of defence:** Praha  
**Attempt:** regular

**Course of defence:** In her work, the student asked about the impact of water weaponization on human security in Sahel from a personal perspective - according to NGOs. To that end, the student selected two case studies and began her dissertation by generally exploring the problematique in the wider academic literature. In the theoretical framework, the student explored the HS framework and seven categories related to it. Methodologically, the student wanted a personal lens, but was not feasible so she went for content and discourse analysis applied onto NGO documents. She then explained how she developed a coding scheme that took into account issues related both to water weaponization, HS, and categories pertinent from the perspective of the NGOs. In the analysis, the student focused mostly on matching information with codes, most importantly in relation to human security and water weaponization. She sought to relate water weaponization codes to all other codes to provide the best possible picture of the situation. She found that HS is a very interrelated concept, impacted by a host of other factors - w. weaponization for example impacts it dearly (food security, health security, economic security). Also she found impact on personal security - for example, women were raped to obtain water - or a political impact, which was a positive impact because water was provided when people would change sides. In conclusion, it has mostly negative impacts through food security, but can also be a little positive. Turning to feedback: 1) literature review not exhaustive - the student defended her choice, as it was discussed also with her supervisor, and argued that it served her purposes well; 2) research question a bit vague and unfocused - the student agreed, the main points of concerns should not be about NGOs but rather the student's own; 3) concerns about methodology, can be unfocused - the student

agrees that it may have not been the best choice for her question but thought that it was still the best choice given time constraints + it was somewhat unfocused, but in the chapters it was according to her well connected, although sometimes focusing too much on the context (which she thought was also important). The committee acknowledged the severity of the critiques but liked how the student handled them, suggested that the research question should have been changed in light of her research limitations, and asked the student to extent upon the positive impacts - which she did. The committee thanked the student and announced her successful completion of the defense.

<b>Result of defence:</b>	very good (C)	
<b>Chair of the board:</b>	prof. PhDr. Emil Aslan, Ph.D. (present)	.....
<b>Committee members:</b>	Marcin Kaczmarski, Dr. (present)	.....
	Sarah Leonard (present)	.....