

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2683467 DCU 21109427 Charles 80307052
Dissertation Title	Ungoverned Spaces, their Exploitation and Militancy: A Case Study of the Un-governance of Pakistan's Former Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and its Exploitation by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

	Late Submission Penalty Select from drop down list
Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)	
Word Count: ~23368 Suggested Penalty: no penalty	

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).

Before Penalty: B2 [16] **After Penalty:** B2 [16]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Very Good
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Very Good
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Good
B. Use of Source Material	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i>	Very Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Very Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Very Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes

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| • Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology) | Not required |
| • Appropriate word count | Yes |

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This is a very good dissertation with a number of strengths. The research design is coherent, the analytical part follows the theoretical frameworks. The use of interviews and questionnaires strengthens the overall argument. The work demonstrates the Author's familiarity with the socio-political context of former FATA in Pakistan and the context of the TTP terrorist activities. There remain some areas for improvement, though.

The introduction could have been more concise. The literature review chapter demonstrates the Author's familiarity with key debates about ungoverned territories and weak states, although a more critical engagement with this literature would have strengthened the dissertation. The process of selecting interviewees could have been described in more detail. It is not clear if questionnaires mentioned in the methodology chapter were used separately from interviews and how their selection process looked like (it is introduced only in chapter 6). The second theoretical framework would have benefitted from a more elaborate discussion. Findings from the interviews and questionnaires could have been incorporated in chapters 4 and 5 rather than discussed in a separate chapter. The conclusion focuses a bit too much on policy implications (which are at a general and abstract level) rather than the dissertation's contribution to academic debates.

Reviewer 2

The thesis is interesting. Foremost, it is a good study of the FATA area of Pakistan and TTP. However, in terms of scholarship and critical thinking, I am afraid it adds little to what we already know. The thesis selects two theoretical frameworks (which the student calls as such, but perhaps they should be called hypothesis testing exercises, built on scholarly literature?) to answer the question of: Is the FATA territory un-governed? And is this a condition which lent political space and opportunities to the TTP for imposing their own governing structures? While the student provides a good and solid description of the FATA and TTP, the question and the answer provided are hardly original. The whole literature on AfPak/PakAf and on failed states had already lent great insights into FATA and un-governed territories. Neither has the thesis considered a critical approach to such scholarly literature as a viable/or interesting intervention; it follows that the thesis confirms the literature's contention/findings. The interviews (10 and conducted online) are brought in in chapter 6 only and do not offer a different or more original perspective on the thesis' findings. A lack of pointed references makes the lit review vague, at times. The thesis is well-written (although there are some typos), well-structured and well-organised. The student also used tables and figures to better put in focus the thesis' findings.