



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Hasse Rams

Title: NATO's No-Expansion Promise

Programme/year: MISS 2024

Author of Evaluation (external reviewer): Prof. Nik Hynek, PhD

Criteria	Definition	Maximm	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	10
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	53
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	17
TOTAL		100	70



Evaluation

Major criteria and evaluation:

This is a thesis on a highly topical issue, the NATO's no-expansion promise to the Russian Federation that was supposed to be made in the early 1990s. While the author does a great job on the empirical side, the lack of any theorisation of the topic lowers the overall quality significantly. If the thesis was to be policy analysis, or a policy brief, that it would have succeeded in its endeavour: empirical objectives clear, historical, diplomatic and policy literature collected and used ticks the box, the writing style and argument gradation all in order. However, it all looks as a missed opportunity for a diploma thesis, which is not, indeed, a policy brief. Consider, that you are having topic that not only has served Putin – and I largely agree with the conclusions made – but also the international expert community where a notable debate between offensive realists, defensive realists, revisionists, and constructivists have been taking place for many years. This would have been the most convenient way to get to the work required parts, namely theory and research design proper. Needless to say that it would have helped the argument to get anchoring and robustness which is now mainly based on a single and well-known Krammer's article. Because I appreciate the efforts of the student, I mark it as a "C" but really, this is an incomplete thesis which partially does not fulfil the standard requirements, despite all of its empirical richness.

Suggested grade: C

Signature:

Nik Hynek