



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Vojtěch Štěpánek**

Title: **Europe's strategy for Tech Security in the Era of Raw Critical Materials**

Programme/year: BS/2024

Author of Evaluation (second reader): prof. Oldřich Bureš

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	22
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	31
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	61
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	10
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	81



## Evaluation

### Major criteria:

The reviewed thesis explores a relatively underexplored topic of European Union's approach to the issue of critical materials as a security concern. It presents the viewpoint of EU institutions while neglecting the EU Member States positions. While this is acceptable, for an actor that is less than a state but more than an IGO, national positions are likely to influence the EU institutions' views and positions substantially.

The author claims that he employs both qualitative and quantitative research methods to address the multifaceted nature of critical materials (p. 17), but no quantitative methods have been really utilized unless one considers basic descriptive statistics as such. The formulation of the hypotheses is also not ideal; it is difficult, if not impossible, to formulate corresponding null hypotheses.

The author managed to find, read, and incorporate key insights from the still limited antecedent academic literature, as well as the more available grey literature. The list of references is extensive for an MA thesis.

The thesis is relatively well-written and structured. While the thesis has identified two plausible concepts, they are not well applied in the empirical chapters. This concerns especially economic security, whose elaboration is relatively brief even in the theoretical section.

There are minor stylistic issues throughout the thesis.

### Assessment of plagiarism:

Not detected.

### Overall evaluation:

Overall, the thesis meets and often surpasses the general requirements for this type of work.

### Suggested grade: B2

### Signature: