



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Anndrea delas Alas

Title: Effectiveness of UN Peace Operations in Africa: An Analysis of MONUSCO and UNISFA

Programme/year: International Relations, 2023/2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Jan Karlas

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	36
<i>Total</i>		80	72
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	91



Evaluation

Major criteria:

This thesis has several strong elements. The first of them is a very clearly defined research question that focuses on the effectiveness of UN peace operations. Simultaneously, the thesis is well anchored in the extensive literature on the topic. In particular, it refers to the key works and take the necessary insights from them.

I would also like to appreciate that the author uses a very precise and relevant operationalisation of effectiveness. Moreover, the thesis has a very concrete and relevant theoretical framework. Building on the existing literature, the author focuses on several independent variables that may explain variation in effectiveness. Last but not least, the methodological part is also adequate – in particular case selection is explicitly discussed.

The empirical analysis is executed very properly. The author uses explicit measurement for the variables, which is not by far common in qualitative case studies. This measurement increases the validity of her argumentation and findings.

As for some limitations:

- although the author convincingly characterises the two selected cases on the basis of the possible features of UN peace missions in Africa (the whole population), she could explain more extensively why exactly these two cases were selected from the available 20-30 and not others (instead of these two)
- although the thesis uses the categories for variables, it does not do this on the basis of clear indicators
- the analysis of the individual independent variables in the case studies is a little short and shallow, but this is at least partly due to the number of these variables
- the analysis of the cases would benefit from a little bit more extensive use of the secondary literature on the given cases



Minor criteria:

Assessment of plagiarism:

The Turnitin check indicates a 28% of overall similarity, but according to my reading of these results the thesis does not commit plagiarism.

Overall evaluation:

This thesis has several strong aspects: definition of the research question, use of the existing literature, the conceptual and theoretical framework, a quality of the case studies. I also mentioned above a few essentially minor limitations related to case selection, operationalisation, analysis of the independent variables, and the work with secondary literature.

Suggested grade:

A

Signature: