

MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

GPS – Geopolitical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Effects of hydrocarbon discoveries on stability of the Eastern Mediterranean
Name of Student:	Miloš Dangubić
Referee (incl. titles):	Martin Riegl
Report Due Date:	10.9.2024

The submitted work does not show signs of plagiarism.

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the four numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Contribution and argument:

I appreciate the choice of topic (the impact of recently discovered hydrocarbon resources on stability and security in the Eastern Mediterranean), which is very topical given the regional dynamics. The author discusses bilateral, trilateral and regional issues between five countries geographically located in the region and provides historical insight into the history of their relations. However, rather than a geopolitical analysis that would lead to the presentation of in-depth analytical conclusions, this is a rather brief description of the issue. The conclusions presented, that there is no single factor (in this case hydrocarbon resources) that can change the dynamics in one direction (either greater cooperation or conflict), are logical but also somewhat trivial. Given the complexity of intra-regional relations, the history of bilateral relations is not surprising. For this reason too, it would have been beneficial to be more detailed (longer than one page), to make the argument go a little deeper. At the same time, I must state that the thesis was not consulted with the supervisor at all.

2) Theoretical and methodological framework:

The theoretical and methodological framework is clearly defined and robust. The author's aim is to analyse the policies and actions of key actors (the Eastern Mediterranean countries - Israel, Egypt, Cyprus, Greece and Turkey and five external actors - the US, the UK, the EU, Russia and China) in the context of hydrocarbon discoveries. This is undoubtedly a pertinent topic as Cyprus has come down hard on the illegal drilling of Anakara near the island. The author has therefore set out research questions on whether new hydrocarbon deposits can affect regional stability and security. The topic is logically set within the RSCT framework and the author tested two hypotheses, one from a realist perspective and the other from a liberal perspective. A qualitative method is used to demonstrate whether hydrocarbon reserves will eventually lead to a more cooperative than conflictual pattern of behaviour. However, the overall linkage between the theoretical part and the application of the outlined methods is rather shallow and one cannot speak of a systematic analysis.

3) Sources and literature:

It's necessary to point out shortcomings in the way the sources are cited. List of sources is relevant and sufficient, however basically all footnotes go without page numbers even when author is quoting from the text or paraphrasing particular passages of the source.

4) Manuscript form and structure:

The submitted paper meets all formal criteria for the Master thesis. It is logically structured in coherent chapters and the layout of the paper shows no major deficiencies.

5) Quality of presentation

The overall quality of the text is good, but sometimes it suffers from minor grammar issues. In general the arguments are clear and the text allows a fluent reading.

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	25
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	23
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	4
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	11
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	9
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	72
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	C

Suggested questions for the defence are:

I (do not) recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.