

MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

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

Thesis title:	Reaccessing Irish neutrality in the context of the Russian Attack against Ukraine
Name of Student:	Conor Long
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:

In his work, the author decided to address the issue of Irish neutrality in the context of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine. It is this aggression that has catalysed changes in the security architecture of Europe, with on the one hand the previously neutral Sweden and Finland joining NATO, while Switzerland and Austria maintain their neutrality. In Dublin, the deterioration of the strategic environment has led to a wide debate on the future of Irish security, foreign and defence policy. In his thesis, Conor set out to answer the research question of whether a move away from neutrality was plausible in the case of Dublin and whether NATO accession would follow. The RQ is followed by relevant hypotheses and overall research methodology. Overall, the author presents a critical analysis of the concept of Irish neutrality and highlights specific aspects that contradict the traditional notion of military neutrality (US use of infrastructure, participation in PESCO or military CSDP missions, etc.). Thus, the author presents very concrete findings to illustrate the different conceptions of neutrality in the case of Ireland and Switzerland.

2) Theoretical and methodological framework:

Conor uses a clearly stated research design in his work based on a comparative case study approach. Using two case studies of Ireland and Switzerland, he analyses different aspects traditionally associated with the issue of neutrality. The starting point is a detailed historical description and analysis of the concept of neutrality in both its political and military dimensions, which the author distinguishes and applies very precisely in his work.

3) Sources and literature:

Author has gathered a sufficient amount of primary as well as secondary sources and proves his ability to critically analyze them throughout the paper.

4) Manuscript form and structure:

The submitted thesis fulfils all formal requirements for this type of thesis and shows no formal deficiencies.

5) Quality of presentation

The linguistic and stylistic level is of high quality, which is also evident from the fact that the author is a native speaker.

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	35
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	23
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	10
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	14
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	10
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	92
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	A

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.