

MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

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

Thesis title:	Food Security in East Asia in the Present and Near-Future
Name of Student:	Eric Shahin Scholz
Referee (incl. titles):	Michael Romancov, Ph.D.
Report Due Date:	09.09. 2024

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

1) Contribution and argument:

The diploma thesis is devoted to an interesting and current topic. I read the work with great interest and learned a lot of new, interesting and excellently contextualized information. Thanks to the fact that the same structure of the text was chosen for all the countries examined, the reader can orientate very well in the text.

My main objection to the thesis is that the text is only a hint of addressing the geopolitical dimension of the problem. The attention is obviously focused on the phenomenon of food security, but especially taking into account the fact that the field of study is GPS, I would assume a significantly greater presence of the assessment of geopolitical risks and challenges. For example, where everywhere there is a risk of problems for the import of food from distant production areas. What capacities in this area do the surveyed countries have, etc.

2) Theoretical and methodological framework:

The theoretical and methodological framework are presented in the work. The issue of food safety is appropriately and sufficiently presented at the theoretical level in the text of the diploma thesis. At the same time, the author was able to apply this level to each of the four investigated countries. From my point of view, however, he was more concerned with political-geographical (ie domestic) aspects rather than taking into account the geopolitical (international-security) dimension.

3) Sources and literature:

The text of the thesis relies on a sufficient number of relevant sources of an academic nature, as well as statistical and government materials. Throughout the text, sources are properly and carefully cited.

4) Manuscript form and structure:

In this respect, the work meets the standards set for texts of this type.

5) Quality of presentation

The diploma thesis was devoted to an undoubtedly interesting and challenging topic, which, however, from my point of view deals predominantly with phenomenon important for political geography, rather than for geopolitics. I am therefore looking forward to the defense, where much will certainly be explained.

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	25
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	15
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	10
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	15
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	10
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	75
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	C

Suggested questions for the defence are:

I 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.