

MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

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

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Thesis title: | The rise and consolidation of the Taliban insurgency in Afghan government |
| Name of Student: | Paula Gomez Moniz |
| Referee (<i>incl. titles</i>): | Bohumil Doboš |
| Report Due Date: | 19.8.2024 |

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 thesis develops an analysis of an important topic of the current international politics. By contrasting the first and second era of the Taliban's rule over Afghanistan, it develops a crucial analysis, highlighting the similarities and differences between both, judging the prospects of the Taliban's rule. This said, it must be pointed out that while the work approaches the issue systematically, it lacks stronger conclusions. The concluding chapter lacks explicit answer to the research questions. This weakens the contribution of the thesis.

2) Theoretical and methodological framework: The text utilizes a comparative approach, using case studies of the first and second Taliban government. It analyses these two through Dussuoy's systemic geopolitics, allowing the author to highlight different aspects of the Taliban's rule and their changes through time. The synthesis of the five spaces, however, might have been more explicitly connected to the research issues.

3) Sources and literature: The sources used are relevant, there are no issues with citations.

4) Manuscript form and structure: Numbering of some chapters is missing. The structure is logical.

5) Quality of presentation: There are numerous language issues. Many sentences are written in improper English, making the text harder to read. This said, these issues by no way make the thesis illegible or impossible to understand. The text just could have been much smoother.

| CATEGORY | POINTS |
|--|---------------|
| <i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i> | 30 |
| <i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i> | 22 |
| <i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i> | 10 |
| <i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i> | 12 |
| <i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i> | 5 |
| TOTAL POINTS | 79 |
| 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. |