

# MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

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

<b>Thesis title:</b>	The Saudi Iranian Rapprochement: A Neoclassical Realist Analysis
<b>Name of Student:</b>	David Blanes Sánchez
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	Bohumil Doboš
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	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 presents an analysis aiming at explaining the reasons behind the Saudi-Iranian deal signed last year and facilitated by China. As it surprised many, it definitely constitutes a task worth pursuing. The analysis is systematic and conclusions logical. Sometimes, the text would benefit from more explicitly connecting some analyzed factors like the role of the US and Israel in the analysis, but generally, the conclusions are well reasoned. The outcome is not extremely surprising, yet well reasoned.

**2) Theoretical and methodological framework:** The thesis is guided by the neoclassical realist analysis. The theoretical framework and its methodological application is well developed.

**3) Sources and literature:** The text operates with relevant number of sources. Citations and bibliography are correctly developed.

**4) Manuscript form and structure:** The structure of the text is logical. Beginning with the general and methodological questions, followed by the two case studies and ending in the final analysis. The form is fine and there are no issues.

**5) Quality of presentation:** The language used is correct. There are no major issues.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	34
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	23
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	8
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	15
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)</b>	<b>A-B</b>

**Suggested questions for the defence are:**

**I recommend the thesis for final defence.**

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**Referee Signature**

*Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:*

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	<b>A</b>	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	<b>B</b>	= superior (honor)

71 – 80	<b>C</b>	= good
61 – 70	<b>D</b>	= satisfactory
51 – 60	<b>E</b>	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	<b>F</b>	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.