



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Juliette Begouen Demeaux

Title: Constructing Carthage as a Threat: A Securitization Approach to the Causes of the Third Punic War

Programme/year: International Security Studies, 2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Tomáš Karásek

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical / conceptual framework	30	29
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	72
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	91



Evaluation

Major criteria:

Despite its continuing dynamic development, security studies is a relatively standardized field when it comes to chronological choices of topics and issues it typically covers. A decision to apply the discipline's contemporary conceptual and methodological instruments on a case not only historical but veritably ancient is thus a welcome diversification.

Such a choice, in itself, would not merit praise if it were not accompanied by a clear research design and its materialization in the form of a relevant and revealing analysis. The thesis under review exhibits both these elements in abundance. Its author ably merges Antiquity's historians with the theoretical framework of securitization (while reflecting on the differences between its original formulation by the Copenhagen School and its later review by Balzacq).

The author asks whether we can learn something new about ancient history by applying the contemporary theoretical tools. As it turns out, we can: while the belligerence of the Roman Republic is well known, by applying securitization the thesis reveals how big a transgression of established rules and norms the initiation of the Third Punic War actually was.

This review needs to critically note that the analysis in chapter 6 would have used a more rigorous explanation for the choice of selected factors, which also points to the missing overall methodology which is rather implicitly sketched out than fully developed in chapter 4. Likewise, apparently due to a limited scale of available sources, the author has not been fully able to void repetition of certain elements of the text. Nevertheless, the overall analytical narration and the interweaving of historical knowledge with contemporary conceptual assessment makes up for the weaker points in the thesis.

Minor criteria:

The author has faced a problem of how to properly select relevant academic literature for her analysis, which needed to combine the sources on the theory of securitization with traditional accounts of ancient history. In this quest, she largely succeeded and the merger, also expounded in the literature review, feels organic and useful. The text refers to its sources in a way that is correct and appropriate. Overall, the thesis is written in an adequate academic language.



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Assessment of plagiarism:

The thesis does not exhibit traits of plagiarism.

Overall evaluation:

This is an interesting, thought-provoking thesis that, through the application of the securitization theory on a historical case, sheds novel light on its understanding.

Suggested grade: **A**

Signature: