



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Elizaveta Mareeva

Title: Constructing and Transforming the Image of the Enemy in the Discourse of American Presidents on the Example of Counterterrorist Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq

Programme/year:2023/24

Author of Evaluation (external examiner): Prof. Nik Hynek, PhD

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	68
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	9
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	19
TOTAL		100	



Evaluation

Major criteria: se below

Minor criteria: see below

Assessment of plagiarism: not detected

Overall evaluation:

This diploma thesis offers an exploration of how American presidents have shaped the enemy image during key military operations post-9/11. The thesis spans the presidential terms from George W. Bush to Donald Trump, examining the rhetoric used in shaping public perception and justifying military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. By employing qualitative content analysis, the author seeks to identify the patterns and shifts in the portrayal of enemies across different administrations, analyzing official speeches, documents, and strategic communications.

The structure of the thesis begins with a literature review that situates the study within the broader context of political discourse and securitization theory. The theoretical framework, grounded in securitization theory, is applied, providing a foundation for the analysis. The methodology involves qualitative content analysis of presidential speeches and official documents. However, the thesis does exhibit some shortcomings. While the analysis is thorough, it occasionally lacks critical engagement with alternative perspectives that could provide a more balanced view of the discourse. The reliance on securitization theory might have benefited from a broader theoretical lens, incorporating perspectives from critical discourse analysis or media studies to deepen the analysis. Additionally, the empirical chapters, although rich in detail, could be more concise; at times, the argumentation becomes repetitive and passages descriptive, which might affect the overall readability of the work.

Suggested grade: B

Signature:



**FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Charles University