



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Andrei Nosov

Title: Eastern Partnership as a Matter of Security: Between Russia's and Central Europe's Perspectives

Programme/year: BSBTS 2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/~~second reader~~): Mgr. Vojtěch Bahenský, Ph.D.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	17
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		80	55
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	4
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	17
TOTAL		100	72



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis has an original and promising premise and goal. Unfortunately, the execution falls well short of achieving its potential, not least due to late writing of the thesis, which led not least to rather significant cuts to the scope of the thesis and amount of analyzed empirical material. The literature review is quite comprehensive, even if not presented as well as it could have been. Theoretical and conceptual basis of the thesis, especially neoclassical realism perspective, feels almost unnecessary in broader context of the work, which arguably could have done without it focusing purely on the analysis of the rhetoric. Unfortunately, the theoretical part dealing with neoclassical is only very sparingly referenced (pp. 19-20). Chapter 4 is also under-referenced and is somewhat dubious how much its general descriptions contribute to the thesis as a whole.

Overall, despite the shortcomings in execution, the thesis manages to combine coherent research goal, theoretical insight and method to be a passable work. Among the main problems in the persuasiveness of the thesis is limited empirical scope, especially focusing only on Lavrov, which makes it difficult to ascertain to what degree his statements are representative of broader Russian elite opinion, especially since he mostly addressed outside audiences. Similarly, limited number of analyzed text and their temporal distribution makes it difficult to gauge temporal shifts in opinion and differentiate them from other factors potential shaping the rhetoric in particular speeches (context, which, to his credit, author recognizes explicitly).

Minor criteria:

Outside sometimes limited referencing is on formal grounds thesis without major problems. There is minor lapse in chapter numbering.

Assessment of plagiarism: No plagiarism found.

Overall evaluation:

The thesis is an ambitious attempt to tackle practically and theoretically relevant topic while using an appropriate methodology. If the thesis was given more time, primarily in analyzing greater scope of empirical material, and was consulted with the supervisor during the process of writing, it could have been an excellent thesis. In its current form, it still constitutes a complete if limited and somewhat flawed work, that fulfills basic expectations for a master diploma thesis.

Suggested grade: C

Signature: