



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Zoé Gadeyne**

Title: Is Françafrique History? Exploring Diverse Narratives Around French-led Military Operations and Development Assistance in Niger

Programme/year: MISS/2024

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): prof. Oldrich Bures

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	25
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	35
<i>Total</i>		80	69
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	89



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The reviewed thesis was long in the making, with several focus changes. Unfortunately, these changes are not reflected in the thesis title listed in SIS. The final version of the thesis aims to explore the diverse narratives surrounding French-led military operations and aid initiatives in Niger, explicitly focusing on the period from February 2022 to December 2023. Specifically, it aims to address the following question: Ultimately, this thesis aims to address the following question: What narratives have emerged in Niger in response to France's military intervention and official development assistance between 2022 and 2023?

I agreed to supervise the thesis due to the lack of a more suitable supervisor who would be an expert in the region and theories used. My review will, therefore, mostly focus on the formal attributes of the thesis.

The author has also managed to find, read, and incorporate the key insights from the antecedent academic literature. The thesis is relatively well structured.

The theoretical chapter offers a decent justification for the use of two theories – the decolonial and subaltern theory – which appear suitable to make sense of the criticisms of French interventionism, whether its military intervention or its official development assistance in the Sahel region. There is also a clear connection between the theoretical and empirical chapters, albeit perhaps a stronger one regarding the decolonial theory.

The author has struggled with data collection but ultimately managed to compile enough local media material for a narrative analysis, complemented by three interviews with local journalists. As acknowledged in the thesis, there are several limits to the thesis' findings due to data collection issues and several other local peculiarities, such as the low literacy rate in Niger, which is only 37.4%. However, original data gathering is always a plus for an M.A. thesis, even with limited generalizability.

Minor criteria:

There are minor stylistic issues throughout the thesis.

Assessment of plagiarism:

Not detected.



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Overall evaluation:

Overall, therefore, the thesis makes a decent contribution on an important contemporary topic.

Suggested grade:

B1

Signature: