FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Matteo Fiorino

Title: Cold War Operation Gladio and Modern Hybrid Warfare

Programme/year: Master in International Security Studies / 2024

Author of Evaluation (second reader): Jan Ludvik

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	2
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	15
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	20
Total		***80***	37
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	7
	Style	**5**	3
	Formal requirements	**5**	3
Total		***20***	13
TOTAL		***100***	50

Evaluation

Major criteria:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your thesis. While I was unfamiliar with the stay-behind phenomenon, I appreciated the chance to learn about it. However, the thesis has several areas that require significant improvement to meet the standards of social science research. The most critical issue is that the thesis does not present a clear social science analysis. Below, I provide detailed feedback:

- **Research Question and Definition of Objectives**

  The thesis lacks a clear and well-defined research question. This absence undermines the structure and focus of the entire work. The research question should be situated within the existing literature, and there needs to be a clear articulation of what addressing this question contributes to the field.

- **Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

  The thesis does not sufficiently develop a theoretical or conceptual framework. Without this, it is difficult to understand the lens through which the research is conducted and how the findings relate to broader academic discussions. A robust framework is essential to grounding the thesis in social science.

- **Methodology**

  There is no clear research design or methodology presented. The thesis needs to articulate the methods used to gather and analyze data, ensuring that the empirical evidence systematically supports the research question. The current approach lacks transparency and rigor, making it difficult to assess the validity of the findings.

- **Analysis and Argumentation**

  The analysis lacks depth and coherence. There is a significant disconnect between chapters, sections, paragraphs, and even sentences. The text often reads as a disjointed collection of information related to intelligence, anti-communist operations, hybrid warfare, and covert networks. The lack of organization makes it difficult for the reader to follow the argument or derive meaningful conclusions.

- **Empirical Accuracy**

  The thesis contains several factual inaccuracies that undermine its credibility. For example:

- The Cold War did not end in 1999; it is widely accepted that it ended in 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- Khrushchev's decision to place Soviet missiles in Cuba was primarily a response to the threat of U.S. invasion rather than solely a reaction to U.S. missiles in Turkey.
- The distinction between a communist party and a communist government is significant, and this needs to be accurately represented in the text.

Minor criteria:

- **Literature Review**

The literature review is misplaced before the introduction and is underdeveloped. It is currently a brief, superficial comment on a few texts without integration or identification of gaps in the literature. This section needs to be relocated and expanded to provide a comprehensive overview of relevant scholarship.

- **Writing Style and Language Use**

The text frequently uses incorrect or non-standard English terms, which detracts from its clarity and professionalism. For example: The word "golpe" should be replaced with "coup." "Occident" is not commonly used in English to refer to the modern West. The term "Hexagon" is not a standard reference in English for France. "Filo-communists" should be replaced with "communist sympathizers." Proper English spelling should be used for place names, such as "Brussels" instead of "Bruxelles." Several terms and phrases, such as "mediatic exposure" and "barriers electrified," are not appropriate in academic English. The thesis requires careful proofreading, ideally with a tool like Grammarly, to eliminate these errors and improve readability.

- **Formal Requirements**

The thesis needs to be rewritten to adhere to the standards of a social science text. This includes a clear research question, a structured argument, a systematic presentation of evidence, and proper use of academic language.

Assessment of plagiarism:

Based on the anti-plagiarism software checks, it is formally confirmed that the submitted thesis is original and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, does not, in an ethically unacceptable manner, draw from the works of other authors.

Overall evaluation:

In summary, while your effort is appreciated, the thesis falls short of the expectations for a scholarly work in social science. I recommend a substantial revision to address the issues highlighted above. This revision should focus on clarifying the research question, developing a robust theoretical framework, improving the organization and coherence of the analysis, and ensuring accuracy and clarity in language use.

Suggested grade: E/F

Signature: Mgr. et Mgr. Jan Ludvík, Ph.D.

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