

Assessment of Master Thesis – Academic Consultant



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International and Diplomatic Studies**

Academic year: **2019/2020**

Master Thesis Topic: **Influence of Social Media on Social Movements during the Arab Spring: Example of Egypt and Tunisia**

Author's name: **Seckin Can Aydogan**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Jan Martin Rolenc, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. Mgr. Pavel Přikryl, Ph.D.**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	2
2.	Logical structure	3
3.	Using of literature, citations	2
4.	Adequacy of methods used	3
5.	Depth of analysis	2
6.	Self-reliance of author	2
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	2
8.	Language and stylistics	3

Comments and Questions:

The thesis deals with a relevant, though not so up-to-date topic. The events of the 2011 Arab Spring have been well researched. Therefore, the thesis rather clarifies the chosen problematique than brings new knowledge or ideas.

The biggest issue is the structure of the thesis. The first-level chapters are logically organized. But the second-level and the inner structure of the chapters is messy. The first chapter dealing with theory is too long (almost 1/2 of the text length) and it contains also a lot of empirical material. Much information is randomly repeated in various chapters. The English language and style are also far from polished. All this makes the text and the author's ideas and arguments hard to follow and understand.

The author quotes repeatedly from a relatively wide range of sources. However, too many sources in Turkish language are used. Some parts rely only on a single source. More academic papers written in English (or other language) and, in general, more variety in quoted sources was desirable.

The theory analyzed in chapter 1 is also messy. Often, the relationships between the various ideas and perspectives are unclear and no key, guiding concept or theory is chosen. The author does not discuss any methodology and the empirical part rests only on basic methods such as description, analysis, and synthesis.

Given the above evaluation, I recommend the thesis for defence and propose to grade it "very good" or "good" based on the opponent's review and the author's defence.

Questions: 1) What is the influence, both positive and negative, of social media on foreign policy and diplomacy in general? 2) How does the current situation in Tunisia and Egypt look like? Did the Arab Spring deliver at least some of its promises?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **2**

Date: 04/01/2020

Ing. Jan Martin Rolenc, Ph.D.
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