

Diploma Thesis Review

Judith Amondi Magak: *The Impact of Violent Extremism on Immigration Policies of Nation States. A Case Study of the Central European States*

The diploma thesis under review wants to tackle the connection between violent extremism and immigration policies of CEE states, especially after the significant influx of migrants that the EU witnessed since 2015. More specifically, the author asks in what way has the rise of violent extremism in the EU in recent decade influenced the immigration policies of the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland and Hungary. Furthermore, the thesis analyzes the responses of these nation states, i.e. assesses the measures taken to deal with rising violent extremism in connection with migration.

In the second chapter, we find the description of the basic concepts used in the thesis, elaboration of key theoretical framework and elucidation of the methodology used. The thesis uses data from questionnaires and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders. Then, in chapter three, after stating the descriptive features of people participating in the surveys and interviews, the author thematically analyzes the content of their answers, supplementing it data and insights from secondary sources. Finally, chapter four discusses the previous findings.

Overall, the thesis under review is a good piece of research. The thesis has concise and logical structure and there is a clear goal in what the thesis wants to achieve. The author defines basic theoretical concepts and attempts to use them in an empirical analysis that focuses on primary data coming from interviews and questionnaires. She supplements the flow of the work with additional information in the form of graphs and maps. The work also utilizes comprehensive number of sources, both of primary and secondary nature.

On the other hand, there are several problems with the reviewed thesis. First, discrepancy between the theoretical framework and actual analysis found in the work has to be noted. Liberal institutionalism and regime theory are ill-equipped to work with both violent extremism (in the case how it is connected to migration) and *perception* of this phenomenon by stakeholders, expert or wider population. The theory of the thesis is more suitable for how to tackle violent extremism, than to better elucidate the connection between violent extremism and migration. This is an important topic and has a place among the thesis's research goals, but simply cannot help to answer other questions. Second, there is a contradiction in equally using

sources about what has happened (or who did something) and what somebody *perceives* as has happened. So, in certain parts it is not clear how the facts of political (or institutional) decision making are in sync with explanations provided by the those participating in the interviews (or people being asked in the questionnaires). I also think that the work does not include clear and precise answer what has been the impact of violent extremism on immigration policies in CEE, because the coherence between what is perceived and what has happened is lacking.

Despite some of the problems in the above-mentioned points, I conclude this review by stating that J. Magak's work has all the necessary qualities for successfully written MA thesis and I thus recommend it for defense.

Hradec Králové, 17. 8. 2023

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