

Thesis reader review

Author's name: Magak Judith Amondi

Title: The Impact of Violent Extremism on Immigration Policies of Nation States; A Case Study of The Central European States

In her bachelor's theses, Magak Judith Amondi analyses the impact of violent extremism in relationship to irregular immigration on immigration policies of Central European states. In particular, the author asks following research question: "To what extent does violent extremism affect the immigration sector among nation-states?" (p. 4) and two sub-questions: "How has violent extremism impacted the immigration sector in Central European countries?" and "What measures have been taken in Central Europe to address violent extremism in the context of immigration?" (p. 5). First the author introduces her topic and justifies its relevance, then she presents current knowledge and research on the topic. Conceptualization and theoretical framework follow. In methodology part the author describes her research approach as well as limitations of her research. This part of the thesis is followed by analytical part in which the author not only presents her findings, but also discusses it and further develop them in relation to various policy recommendations.

Magak Judith Amondi has chosen a topic that is highly relevant. Immigration (no matter whether irregular or regular one) and related policies has become one of the most discussed topics all over the world, Central European states included. In politics, the topic has formed a cleavage around which many extremist and radical parties emerged, in (political) science this phenomenon is widely studied not just in relation to national states and their policies but also in relation to EU policies as immigration is part of the common EU policies. My first comment goes exactly this way: The author refers to employing liberal institutionalism theory (Ernest Haas): if doing that, the author (I guess) must come to EU and EU migration and asylum policy, which sets some common rules and procedures as well as defines what institutions deals with these policies. That is, EU member states do not define and design immigration policies themselves only, but they are (in a way) forced to adopt certain policies from the EU and in relation to these define and design their "own" policies. The author does not reflect on that. My second comment(s) goes to the methodology. First the author states research questions to be answered, then adds a hypothesis to be tested. Based on the way the author proceeds with the research there is no need for the hypothesis. In other words, the author does not test any hypothesis (even though the wording of the thesis title might suggest so). If the author wanted to test a hypothesis, then the thesis must have been structured in a completely different way, including the theory (which provides the author with the rationale for hypothesis formulation). My second comment related to the methodology goes to the way the author collects the data. Based on the description she provides us with, I understand the author wants to collect representative data so she can generalize, or rather "somehow" objectify her findings. I don't think this is possible based on the way the author proceeds even though she states she gathered the respondents using random sampling techniques (p. 23). Besides she states that her study is a qualitative one (p. 23), although later she states she analyses data using SPSS (p. 24), which suggests the author also uses (at least descriptive) statistics. Even though I appreciate detailed methodology description, I was rather confused how the author works with the data and based on what kind of an analysis she comes with her findings. Finally, the author states she focuses on Central European states, later she reduces Central European states to "mostly" Poland and Hungary (p. 7), not providing us with almost any justification why such a reduction and how does this reduction affects the results (are we still learning on all the Central European states as named in the introduction).

Questions:

- 1) How did you choose the respondents for your study (especially via random sampling techniques you mention in the text)?
- 2) How does all the parts of the research contribute to answering the research question?
- 3) How does the existence of EU migration and asylum policy influence your theoretical framing, thus your results?

To sum it up, the thesis surpasses the usual standards set by the Department of Political Science of the Faculty of Arts of the Czech Republic for bachelor theses. I recommend the thesis for defence and suggest a grade C.

Date:

Signature: