



BACHELOR THESIS EVALUATION: THESIS ADVISOR

Thesis topic: The Iron Way: The Influence of Prussian Military Reforms on the German Nation-Building Process

Author: Samuel Strecha

Advisor: Lucas Sprouse

Study program: Political Science, Liberal Arts

Evaluation contains objective and critical analysis of a bachelor thesis proposal. Evaluation should be considered by the following criteria:

Criteria for the evaluation of the final thesis	Max. points	Points given by evaluator
1. Methodological aspect (logical frame, process of inquiry, topic specification, how realistic are set goals and how adequate are proposed working methods)	10	8
2. Sources of domestic and foreign literature, Familiarity with relevant literature	15	14
3. Formatting and style	15	13
4. Scope and proportionality of content	5	4
5. Systematic approach	15	15
6. Evaluation of achieved results	40	38
Total	100	92

Final evaluation: A (90-100 points), B (80-89 points), C (70-79 points), D (60-69 points), E (50-59 points), Fx (<49 points)

92%, A, well done

Evaluation, comments, recommendations of the thesis advisor:

Samuel presents his thesis in a straightforward manner, proves his thesis effectively, and analytically ties the various chapters together to explain the importance of two sets of reforms to the Prussian military state. He mentions other aspects of nation-building while demonstrating the vital importance of the military to the formation of the German state under Prussian influence. In the first two chapters, he provides a good historical narrative interspersed with analysis tied to his thesis. The third chapter is somewhat repetitive and parts could have been further developed. That being said, Samuel took on a gigantic topic and managed to prove his desired points within the confines of his high-arching goal. Had he chosen a more manageable topic or focused on one of the two sets of reforms, I am confident he would have been able to provide a more concise argument. Despite choosing such a large period of time, Samuel was able to show the interconnectedness of the two reforms as well as how the military reforms restructured society in order to create a more educated, patriotic nation of German speakers within a more structured militaristic society that utilized industrial innovations to its benefit. Samuel has clearly researched the topic; more German primary sources will be needed if he hopes to expand this in the future.

I recommend – do not recommend this thesis toward bachelor thesis defense in June 2024.

In Bratislava, on:

3rd May 2024
(date)

Signature of evaluator:

Sprouse