

MASTER THESIS REVIEW**THESIS AUTHOR:** Ahmad Abdel Majeed**TOPIC NAME:** Activating "Waqf" and "Zakat" in Tackling Poverty and Supporting Investment in Palestine: Chances and Challenges**BRANCH OF STUDY:** International Development Studies**AUTHOR OF REVIEW:** Ing. Mgr. Jaromír Harmáček, Ph.D.

| EVALUATION, PART 1: FACTUAL CONTENT OF THE THESIS | |
|---|---|
| To what extent is the thesis structure logical and transparent? Did the author answer research questions? What has been achieved in terms of the thesis objectives? | D |
| How complicated and how well applied is methodology of the thesis? | D |
| How good is factual content of the thesis? Are there any factual mistakes? Are facts and described relations interpreted correctly? Did the author use appropriate terminology? | B |
| How well – in terms of depth and quality – did the author analyse the topic? | D |

Verbal assessment:

The author focused on Waqf and Zakat and their role in tackling poverty and promoting investment and development which is, in general, an original and relevant, yet largely ignored issue in European perspective on development studies. The thesis has a logic structure and the aim is clearly stated. The same is true for the research questions. There is, however, no clear methodology and the thesis has a descriptive nature (to a large extent). Therefore, according to my opinion, some of the research questions were not answered nor addressed in full (see section „Topics for discussion“ of the review) and the objective of the thesis was not entirely fulfilled. Depth and quality of the thesis could have been better, for example the conclusions and recommendations part seems to be quite sloppy to me. Similarly, some of the chapters could have been more directly aimed to fulfill the objectives of the thesis. This is documented in the last chapter „Investment of Zakat: case study of Malaysia as a role model for Palestine“ where there is not much information on possible inspirations for Palestine from the Malaysian story. Additionally, the Waqf issue is completely missing in this chapter which does not really match the general structure and logic of the thesis. Other than that, the factual content of the thesis is OK.

| EVALUATION, PART 2: LITERATURE AND SOURCES CITED IN THE THESIS | |
|--|---|
| To what extent does the author use suitable sources? Is quantity of cited sources appropriate for master thesis? | C |
| What is the quality of citations and references? Are sources identifiable? | C |

Verbal assessment:

The author used a sufficient amount of suitable sources, however, quality of the sources varies widely. There are not many academic journal articles among the sources used. The quality of citations is satisfactory with some minor mistakes: for example, some of the references used in the text are in capitals only while the others are not. There are more similar inconsistencies but these are not serious violations of the citation rules.

| EVALUATION, PART 3: FORMAL REQUIREMENTS | |
|--|---|
| What is the stylistic level of the thesis, particularly the use of correct terminology? | C |
| Is format of the thesis in accordance with the usual standards for academic works? Is graphic edit positive contribution to the quality of the thesis? | D |

Verbal assessment:

The formal requirements are generally fulfilled. The thesis seems to be a bit shorter according the number of pages but the minimal word limit of 20,000 is just met. However, the text is divided to a large amount of small chapters and subchapters which is quite annoyng for a reader because the continuity and smoothness of the text is consistently interrupted.

| TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE THESIS DEFENCE |
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| 1. How can Zakat and Waqf be used as a vehicle for investments in the Palestinian regions? 2. To what extent might the Malaysian Zakat management system serve as a good example for Palestine? |

| OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE THESIS | |
|--|----------|
| Verbal assessment: The topic of the thesis is very interesting and also original for the European perspective on development studies but the performance could have been better, mainly content-wise. I recommend the thesis to be defended with the proposed grade being „D“. | |
| Proposed grade: | D |

DATE: August 2, 2017

SIGNATURE: _____