Viktor Dutko's bachelor thesis is "Lone wolves as a Product of Extremist Islamist Groups". By applying the method of process tracing, the thesis analyzes what it names as the causal mechanism behind the formation of an Islamist lone wolf. Studying a number of cases, the thesis provides a number of conclusions, such as initial contact with propaganda/propagandist is necessary for starting the process of creation of "lone wolf" or Criminal background is strengthening factor of possibly developing "lone wolf". On this account, in general, I found the thesis is successful in terms of having a solid subject, a consistent theoretical perspective and providing a satisfactory number of cases to prove a correlation with their causal background.

However, on the other hand, the literature review in the beginning could have been more inclusive. There also lacks a debate on the criteria of inclusion and exclusion of relevant/irrelevant studies. The methodology section starts (p. 12) without doing this. Though I have no objection to the method applied in the thesis, it appears disconnected with the larger literature. Yet, it becomes a legitimate basis for further inquiry. Methodologically, a thesis should explain the logic of exclusion along with that of inclusion.

A similar criticism in this regard is about the conclusion: The conclusion should have included some debates about how the findings of this study are relevant in terms of recent studies. As the thesis itself underlines, there is a growing interest in lone wolves, particularly in Europe. This interest is an inevitable result of recent lone wolf activism across Europe. So, how is this bachelor thesis relevant in this regard? Such a debate could have provided us with how the study is different as well, similar to the recent studies on the same subject. However, the conclusion does not provide in depth information on this significant aspect.

Notwithstanding such critics, I find the thesis successful in general. As I have stated above, it provides a consistent theoretical perspective on a highly important and well-defined problem/subject. Based on this overall evaluation, I suggest B.

Gokhan Bacik

25 May 2022