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Date: 2023/11/28

Report on the Final Exam

Name of the Chair: Tomohito Shinoda

On behalf of the Dissertation Examining Committee, I would like to report the result of the Final Exam as follows.

1. Student ID	1C0D02
2. Name	Feruz Madaminova
3. Cluster	International Relations Cluster
4. Dissertation Examining Committee	Supervisor: Vida Macikenaite
	External Examiner: David Welch
	Advisor: Kyohei Yamada
	Advisor: Tomohito Shinoda
5. Dissertation Title	Foreign Policy Change under Authoritarian Leaders: Analysis of Uzbekistan's Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era
6. Submission Date	Draft: October 16, 2023
	Final: November 28, 2023
7. Final Exam Date	November 15, 2023
8. Faculty Meeting Date	December 6, 2023
9. Degree Title	Ph.D. in International Relations
10. Result	Pass

I. Dissertation Overview and Summary of the Presentation

The dissertation examines the foreign policy change under the authoritarian regime of Uzbekistan. It has the case studies under two presidents, Karimov and Mirziyoyev.

It introduces the existing analytical framework of foreign policy change both democracies and non-democracies. However, the student could not find an appropriate conceptual model to analyze foreign policy change of small-size authoritarian regimes.

At the first part, the dissertation introduces Leadership Trait Analysis, an quantitative analysis to analyze the national leaders leadership styles from their public speeches. It concludes that all Karimov I (before 2005), Karimov II (after 2005) and Mirziyoyev are classified as “advocate” leaders who challenges constraints and relatively closed to information.

The second part of the dissertation is the analysis of the foreign policy behavior in the three periods. The dissertation offers a model with two independent variables: leadership style and external environment perceived by the leader. Karimov before 2005 promoted the integration of Central Asia, but after the 2005 rebel Karimov perceived the world was against him became more isolationist. Mirziyoyev who did not have domestic political concern could change foreign policy course to open his country. These findings contribute to a better understanding of the foreign policy changes of Uzbekistan in the post Cold War period. The presentation of the dissertation was logical, and the dissertation is well researched and well written.

II. Notes from the Dissertation Examining Committee (including the changes required to the dissertation by the committee)

The examination committee unanimously agreed to pass the student for her dissertation. The dissertation is well researched. The committee asked the student to revise her draft in the following points. 1) The word “framework” should be changed to “model.” 2) The word “external environment” should be changed to “political environment.” The domestic political changes should be explanatory factors in the model for the changes in 2005 and 2016. 3) The student needs to establish a stronger bridge between LTA analysis and foreign policy behaviors. LTA analysis should be explicitly referred in the case study chapters, and explained in details in the conclusion.

III. Confirmation by the Chair that changes have been done to the satisfaction of the committee

The candidate has addressed all the changes required by the thesis examination committee to the satisfaction of the examining committee.

IV. Overall Evaluation

The dissertation was well researched, and it explores the personality of the Uzbekistan national leaders. Their leadership style and perception of both domestic and international political environment significantly affected their initiatives of foreign policy changes. The study is an important contribution to help understand the foreign policy behaviors of Uzbekistan.