I reviewed Randy's project, and I have to note my great satisfaction from it.

This is the first time I have been mentoring a graduate student for such a paper, but given my previous experience and occupation at INSS, this is high-level work.

This is a complex issue that requires review through five perspectives: two powers and three Middle Eastern countries, in three complex case studies. In addition, it presents a disciplinary understanding in the field of firearms sales, and the perceptual framework of soft / hard / sharp power.

Randy was able to delve into all of these. The work is in-depth, coherent, well-written and reasoned. It illustrates well the connection of arms sales to the various tiers of national security.

There are very few inaccuracies, which result from the breadth of the subject. The theoretical part could be "tightened" a little more by better explaining the differences between soft / hard / sharp power (he focused more on introducing "soft"). But the writing demonstrates that he understood the theory and the differences.

From my perspective, it is also noteworthy to mention his effort to add to his work a dimension of practical recommendations. He did a significant amount of work, reading, consulted with a number of experts, and it was important for him that in the end, someone would be able to do something with his work. He even added a chapter of preliminary observation to the implications of the Corona pandemic on the field, with all the required caution.

Daniel Rakov