

## **Abstract**

This thesis examines contemporary American extremism, using the example of the far-right, all-male organization Proud Boys, whose members refer to themselves as "Western chauvinists." This thesis analyzes the group in terms of its history, organization, and hierarchy. Paying special attention to the group's ideology, the thesis aims to place the group in the larger context of American society and to name the factors that influenced the group's direction in terms of its ideological grounding in violence. In this thesis, I will defend the thesis that violence plays a privileged role that co-creates the ideology of the group as a whole. The thesis is designed to provide an answer to the question "what role does violence play in the Proud Boys?" Through an in-depth qualitative content analysis, this thesis discusses the relationship between violence and the ideology of the Proud Boys and explains how violence contributes a unifying role. In general, this study contributes to an understanding of both the motivations and behaviors of the Proud Boys group and contributes to the larger discourse on extremism in contemporary America.