

**BACHELOR'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT**  
*PPE – Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics*  
*Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University*

<b>Thesis title:</b>	<b>The Turning Tables of Russia's Global South Foreign Policy</b>
<b>Student's name:</b>	<b>Héloïse Ducler</b>
<b>Referee's name:</b>	<b>Bohumil Doboš</b>

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	<b>50</b>	30
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	<b>15</b>	10
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	<b>15</b>	8
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	48
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources, literature	<b>10</b>	8
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	<b>5</b>	3
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	<b>5</b>	4
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	63

**Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score:**

*No sign of plagiarism found.*

**Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria** (min. 1800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):

The presented thesis aims to cover the Russian foreign policy changes regarding the Global South. This is a very important and relevant topic. However, the thesis aims to cover the WHOLE of these relations. That is a goal that would be viable for a handbook type of manuscript, not a bachelor thesis. Just the fact that the thesis is over 100 pages long in total highlights this. The broadness of the topic disallows the bachelor thesis to provide any meaningful insight or analysis, even though the author clearly gathered and understood vast amount of data. If the topic was narrowed down to a single topic or region/country, the quality of the text would greatly increase as the author is clearly capable of understanding the political processes analysed.

This broadness than leads to other problems. The rather long historical introduction into the Russian politics would be relevant if used to explain the changes in the Russian approach to the Global South throughout the times. Yet it is not used this way as that

would further increase the length of the manuscript. The Global South is also very problematically conceptualized. The author herself points at this fact very correctly, yet the case selection includes an extremely varied set of countries. The attention paid to the different countries is then very uneven throughout the analysed factors. Also, the thesis holds numerous language issues including typos, incorrect capitalizing and translations and at least on pages 13 and 37 incorrect citing. I would believe this is also a consequence of developing too lengthy and broad bachelor thesis. In the final analysis, divided into seven sections, the different spheres of analysis are sometimes mixed together (e.g., the debate over carbohydrate dependencies of LA countries in the section on soft power). The work uses endnote referencing style, which is not a problem in itself, yet the referencing of the works is not following any clear citation style. It would be beneficial to include bibliography as well.

Minor comments: hypotheses should be “tested” not “proven”; p. 37 – WG was also used in Syria for many military operations as a way to gain plausible deniability; wrong abbreviation of Central African Republic used (CAF instead of CAR); p. 48 – Turkey, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan are strictly speaking not neighbours of Russia; sometimes too long paragraphs; conclusions about lesser impact of Russian mercenaries in Africa post-Wagner are not true (see CAR, Niger, Burkina Faso, Sudan or Mali).

Despite these comments, the author highlighted the capacity to write an academic text and work with data and I recommend the thesis for a defence.

**Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): D**

**Suggested questions for the defence are:**

**I recommend the thesis for final defence.**

---

***Referee Signature***

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	<b>A</b>	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	<b>B</b>	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	<b>C</b>	= good
61 – 70	<b>D</b>	= satisfactory
51 – 60	<b>E</b>	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	<b>F</b>	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.