

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

Thesis title:	The Turning Tables of Russia's Global South Foreign Policy
Student's name:	Héloïse Ducler
Referee's name:	Martin Riegl

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	50	35
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	12
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	8
<i>Total</i>		80	55
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	9
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	4
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	3
<i>Total</i>		20	15
TOTAL		100	71

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score:

No plagiarism was detected in the thesis.

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):

I appreciate the choice of the topic, which is the growing importance of the Global South in Russia's foreign policy following its military aggression against Ukraine in February 2022. Not only that this unprecedented violation of international law shattered the very foundations of European security, it also triggered a diplomatic race between the West and Russia "below the Brandt line". The author has clearly defined a research question (Did the Russian military aggression on the 24th of February 2022, as well as the diplomatic reaction of the collective West lead to a restructuring of the Russian Foreign Policy towards the Global South?) and tries to systematically find an answer to it. The wording of RQ might seem to be somewhat trivial, as Russia in fact does not hide its foreign policy shift from the West to the Global South countries (Moscow was forced to reduce her diplomatic presence in the West and needs to find job opportunities for diplomats), but it's also an important aspect of Russia's response to its diplomatic isolation. The point of departure of the paper is a historical excursion into different periods of Russian foreign

policy, the author also provides a conceptualization of the term Global South as its use in media and academic works exploded in the past two years. For this reason, it's important to understand the historical connotations of the term, which I believe needs to be retired because it serves (as it puts all countries below the line into one basket) Russian diplomatic interest.

The paper provides a lot of information on increasing cooperation between Russia and non-Western countries in the area of energy, security, diplomacy etc. but I see room for improvement when it comes to its methodology. Sometimes it gives an impression of rather random collection of information than a systematic analysis of trends (or flows) in cooperation between Russia and the Global South in different areas. For example, the author puts emphasis on relations of Russia with the Middle East, Africa, and China, but other countries belonging to the analyzed group are missing. Having said that, aggregated data covering a shift in the Russian reorientation toward the Global South are not provided.

The reason is that the framework for methodology was not developed at an early stage of writing but during the process. The overall impression is that rather than compilation (although extensive) a systemic analysis based on solid methodology is presented. Despite that, I still find a value-added in the paper and recommend it for defence.

Proposed grade (C):

Suggested questions for the defence are: None

I (do not) recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

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