

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

Thesis title:	Beyond Borders: A Game Theoretic Exploration of TSMC's Role in China-Taiwan Tensions.
Student's name:	Sebastian Oram
Referee's name:	Martin Riegl

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	50	44
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	15
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	15
Total		80	74
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	9
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	5
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	4
Total		20	18
TOTAL		100	92

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score:
I have not detected any issue with plagiarism.

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 author has identified an essential topic of the contemporary geopolitics. One does not need to stress the ongoing degradation of the geostrategic environment imposed on the West by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine. In February 2022 the world entered the period of redefined global paradigm with all geopolitical and geoeconomic consequences such as the reality of a politically divided world and slowing globalization, or the end of a just-in-time approach. However, as somebody said, Russia might be a perfect storm, but China might be a climate change when it comes to destabilization of the existing security architecture. It's clear that a potential military action in any form, of China against

Taiwan would have way more serious implication for the global economy. Not only for this reason, it's important to analyze the role of the semiconductor industry located in Taiwan.

The submitted thesis has well-defined goals and research design. Sebastian has chosen a game theory as a theoretical framework, which is absolutely relevant. The analysis is well done and I find no major shortfalls when it comes to the theoretical or methodological side of the submitted paper. Of course, theories always have certain limits to provide a comprehensive answer to complicated and multi-faceted reality on the ground. It's always a bit of simplification to try to explain someone's behavior and strategic calculations as purely rational because psychology always plays an important role. War gaming or desk-top exercise are just one of the possible examples. In the case of Taiwan there are important aspects that would be considered on both sides, be it geographic aspects such as a relatively short window of opportunity for the invasion (in terms of weather conditions on the sea), or the importance of cognitive warfare, which may be of essence too. To sum up, I appreciate the original angle of the thesis and overall quality of analysis. From a formal point of view, the paper meets all formal aspects required for a bachelor thesis.

Proposed grade (A):

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.