

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

<b>Thesis title:</b>	Morally Defensible Violent Political Action in Liberal Democracies: Left-Wing Inspired Riots, Protests, and Civil Disobedience
<b>Student's name:</b>	Elise Brady
<b>Referee's name:</b>	Janusz Salamon

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	<b>47</b>	
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	<b>14</b>	
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	<b>14</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>75</b>	
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources, literature	<b>8</b>	
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	<b>5</b>	
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	<b>5</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>93</b>	

**Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria:**

In her Bachelor's thesis, Elise Brady has addressed an important philosophical question in a methodologically innovative manner which yielded valuable results. She was not the first author to argue passionately for justifiability (in the context of liberal democracy) of violent political protest undertaking by „relational, non-state, and non-terroristic actors“ when conventional forms of protest have proven to be politically ineffective. Indeed, the critical analysis of the existing justificatory strategies that have been put forward by normative philosophers of various political persuasion constitute the point of departure of Elise Brady's research project. It is because Elise Brady considers each of the existing strategies of justification of „violent political action“ insufficient on their own, she sets herself a goal of providing a superior justification and achieves this goal by making use of innovative argumentative structure of „cumulative argument“ that is inspired by other authors but in detail conceived by Elise Brady independently of them. Her cumulative argument (a metaphorical

argumentative “rope”) brings together the strengths of the three justificatory strategies she considers most promising (Radical Democracy, Marxism, Liberation Theology) while leaving out their weaknesses. The results of this philosophical operation are quite impressive. To appreciate it, it suffices to follow Elise Brady’s train of thought: the Marxist justification of political violence complements the justification generated by Radical Democracy by highlight the aspect of economic injustices as justifying violent protest, but Radical Democracy balances Marxism’s tendency play down the importance of liberal democracy; Liberation Theology, in turn, complements Radical Democracy and Marxism by bringing to the fore moral and solidaristic considerations giving rise to justificatory claims. The quality of the thesis is limited somewhat by the brevity of the treatment of some of the key issues, and a more comprehensive study of this research question would require more explicit justification of the exclusion of some other lines of argument justifying violent political protest for reasons other than the space limitation of a Bachelor’s thesis. Having said that, the thesis deserves, in my opinion, the top grade.

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

**Suggested questions for the defence are:**

How exactly does the “cumulative synthesis” “dissolve” (presumably in a Hegelian-style dialectical sublation) the tensions between these three strategies (especially between Radical Democracy and Marxism, since Marxism and Liberation Theology has been ideologically related from the get-go)?

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

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***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.