

## **Abstract**

The topic of this thesis is the French satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo* and the impact left on it by the terrorist attack on its headquarters on January 7, 2015. Founded in 1970, *Charlie Hebdo* stands alongside several other magazines (such as *Le Canard Enchaîné* and *Le Figaro*) as one of the most prominent French satirical periodicals. Its content primarily includes news on current global events, religion, politics, and pop culture. However, the magazine is most characterized by its cartoons, which have elicited strong reactions from certain groups over the years. Among the most serious conflicts sparked by the magazine's controversial content are its disputes with the Muslim community, with the most contentious topic being the caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. These conflicts led to threatening letters, an arson attack on *Charlie Hebdo's* offices in 2011, and culminated in the terrorist attack on its editorial team on January 7, 2015. This thesis explores the concepts of caricature, political cartoons, and satire, and their roles in today's world. It follows with the history and philosophy of *Charlie Hebdo* and its conflicts with radical Muslims. The aim of the thesis is to determine whether the content of the weekly has changed in any way following the terrorist attack on January 7, 2015. By utilizing qualitative content and semiotic analysis and through the examination of selected cartoons, the research question is addressed. The conclusion of the thesis is that the religiously themed content of *Charlie Hebdo* has not significantly changed after the terrorist attack on January 7, 2015, and thus the attack did not have a major impact on its operations. On the contrary, it reinforced the authors' commitment to the frequent promotion of freedom of speech and expression.