

**Report on the part of the master state examination**  
**Record of the thesis defence**

Academic year: 2019/2020

**Student's name and surname:** Connor Austman  
**Year of birth:** 1993  
**Student's ID:** 30727896

**Type of the study programme:** Master's (post-Bachelor)  
**Study programme:** Political Science  
**Branch of study:** Master in International Security Studies  
**Study Identification Number:** 598281

**Title of the thesis:** Examining the Growth of Private Military Contractors and their Applications in State Stability in Latin America  
**Thesis department:** Department of Security Studies (23-KBS)  
**Language of the thesis:** English  
**Language of defence:** English  
**Advisor:** Mgr. et Mgr. Tomáš Kučera, Ph.D.  
**Reviewer(s):** prof. Mgr. Oldřich Bureš, Ph.D., M.A.

**Date of defence:** 24.09.2020      **Venue of defence:** Praha

**Course of defence:** On behalf of the commission, Prof Hynek invited the student to give his description of the presented research, including empirical findings and the supporting theoretical/methodological framework. Afterwards, the commission summarised the reviewer's reports, focusing on the critical points raised in the reports. The main contentious point discussed involved the problems identified in the thesis's literature review. The student offered his views on the critical points and proceeded to explain the situation of Russian private military companies and links to the Marxist theorisation. The commission concluded the defence, stating that the student's responses were adequate.

**Result of defence:** very good (C)

**Chair of the board:** prof. PhDr. RNDr. Nikola Hynek, Ph.D., .....  
M.A. (present)

**Committee members:** PhDr. Vít Střítecký, M.Phil., Ph.D. (present) .....  
Mgr. Petr Špelda, Ph.D. (present) .....