

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

<b>Thesis title:</b>	Responsibility of Nation States for Global Justice: The Case of Germany
<b>Student's name:</b>	Nora Wrenger
<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>49</b>	
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	<b>15</b>	
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	<b>14</b>	
<i>Total</i>		<b>78</b>	
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources, literature	<b>9</b>	
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	<b>5</b>	
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	<b>5</b>	
<i>Total</i>		<b>19</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>97</b>	

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

Nora Wrenger chose to devote her Bachelor's thesis to a very ambitious and demanding topic, since it brings together some of the most challenging questions in contemporary political philosophy (concerning the foundations for a theory of justice in culturally pluralistic world) and the most excruciating political dilemmas concerning the relation between the duties of the governments towards the citizens of the nation state as the sovereign (in the liberal-democratic conceptual framework) and the duties towards all human beings as bearers of the inalienable rights (in the same liberal democratic conceptual framework). To navigate these largely uncharted waters, Nora provides a solid foundation for her inquiry in the form of the constitutional theory of the German Constitution (Basic Law). Guided by the Dworkinian method of "moral reading" of the constitution, she identifies as the moral core of the German constitutional order Kantian deontology with its underlying concept of human dignity as grounding the categorical imperative of respect towards every person as an end in itself. From there, she explores the implications for the domestic and global justice, aware of the inherent tension between the two and skilfully employs the distinction introduced by the German ethicist Thomas Pogge between negative and positive duties (as well as the distinction between the perfect and imperfect duties) to delineate the duties of global justice that may be ascribe to national governments.

Nora's analysis of the issues at hand is most impressive and there is little wanting that I find in her thesis. The only question that was bothering me as I read the final version of Nora's work was to what extent the conclusion she has reached are universalisable and thus applicable to other nations (even those whose constitutions are robustly liberal-democratic). Clearly, her intention was to treat Germany as a case study (not as the sole focus of her inquiry), in order to reach conclusions that would shed light on the "responsibility of nation state for global justice". So the obvious question that arises is whether one would need to turn the Kantian conception of human dignity into the indispensable universal foundation of all constitutions (or at least those of the liberal-democratic states) in order to explain why the governments of nation states may have some obligations of justice towards non-nationals (and let us not forget that the negative duties towards non-nationals also require some philosophical grounding such as human dignity which, however, may be itself grounded in variety of ways, not necessarily Kantian). In other words, do Nora's findings in her thesis warrant a universalist interpretation or might they allow for a pluralistic interpretation (according to which the duties of global justice of the German government might be established on one philosophical basis (say, Kantian), while analogical duties of the British government might be established on a different philosophical basis (say, some variation on the Burkean conservative interpretation of the British constitutional tradition and its moral core)? Addressing such questions would require additional analysis, employment of some additional methodological tools, and considering additional literature,

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

**Suggested questions for the defence are:**

Please, address the question formulated in the latter part of my Reviewer's commentary above.

**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.