

OPPONENT'S REPORT
BA THESIS

A Comparative Analysis of the New African-American Narratives and Critical Voices of Toni Morrison,
Angela Davis, Al Sharpton, and Patrisse Cullors
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The thesis begins with an outline of U.S. history of slavery, racism and resistance to both. The objective throughout is to compare "the original Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and the second stage the 'new' movement," which, it is argued, "started at the end of the 1960s after the death of Martin Luther King Jr" (12). Focusing on Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and James Baldwin as representatives of the former stage, and Angela Davis, Toni Morrison, Al Sharpton and Patrisse Cullors as representatives of the latter, the thesis argues that "the movement expanded in the 1970s and does so to this day. With activists being able to reach a wider audience not only through various media but primarily because of the internet and social networks, the movement became more approachable" (12). Literature, too, has been (and continues to be) a powerful organizing tool (25-27).

The objective of the thesis is undeniably commendable as anti-racist work continues being necessary. However, the text could have been more carefully edited and more thoroughly presented. The choice of the seven authors could have been explained: why King, Baldwin and Malcolm X to represent the Civil Rights Movement, and why Davis, Morrison, Sharpton and Cullors for New Social Movements? The short overviews of these authors' works, which characterize the movements in the thesis, are inevitably selective; Morrison, for example, is introduced primarily through a reading of *The Bluest Eye* and *Beloved*, and the section on Sharpton has only two and a half pages. From these short overviews, it is difficult to form a more general picture of the Civil Rights Movement and New Social Movements, in order to consider similarities and differences between these movements' strategies and also between their positions within the global capitalist system, which has markedly changed since the 1950s when the Civil Rights Movement began to gain momentum. Concerning differences between the Civil Rights Movement and New Social Movements, the introduction mentions social media but the thesis does not really return to this issue; could the defense perhaps develop the question in detail, considering both advantages and disadvantages of this particular relatively recently emergent channel of activism? In the specific context of Black Lives Matter, for example, in the author's view, what are social media organizing achievements and what would she see as some limitations?

Proposed grade: velmi dobře (2)

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