The Bachelor thesis presented here is concerned with the political philosophy of British historian Lord Acton and its influence on the political thought of 20th century. The aim of the thesis was to present Acton's political thought in the environment of 19th century Britain and to show its influence on the political thought of 20th century.

Acton's political philosophy was concerned with many problems of Victorian age and his philosophy deals with many contemporary and historical issues. Because of this, I had to put emphasis only on some aspects of Acton's political thought. Mainly on the theoretical fusion of Catholicism and Liberalism.

The thesis is divided into three parts:

In the first part I present Acton's conception of liberty. Through the term of liberty I try to show the basis of his liberal philosophy. Every attempt to systematize Acton's philosophy must start mainly with this term of liberty, because it was central in his thinking. Also his understanding of the word liberty is one of the things that distinguishes Acton from other thinkers, because it implicitly contains main premises of ethical teachings of the church.

The second part talks mainly about Acton's evaluation of the French revolution. I find this historical event very interesting and indispensable in the way that it presents to us how Acton changed his political orientation from conservative to more liberal. I looked into the proofs for Acton's revaluation of his principles in his essays and lectures.

The third part is concerned with reflection of Acton's philosophy in 20th century. Here we can see some final remarks about Acton's philosophy and main problems in his political thinking. In this section we can also see if his philosophy was reflected in the 20th century, or if it was mainly left out as it was in the 19th century. The most thorough critic of Acton's philosophy in 20th century was Russell Kirk. On the other hand the most well known thinker influenced by Acton was F.A. von Hayek.