

**CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Institute of Political Studies

**MASTER'S THESIS**

**2016**

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**HONG KONGERS ADDING OIL**  
**A Critical Analysis of the SAR's**  
**Pro-Democracy Movements**

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Subject:	<b>International Security Studies</b>
Academic Year:	<b>2014/15</b>
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Date Submitted:	<b>29 July 2016</b>

## **Bibliographic note**

BREIER, Marlene. *Hong Kongers Adding Oil: A Critical Analysis of the SAR's Pro-Democracy Movements*. Prague, 2016. 73 p. Master's thesis. Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Political Studies, Department of Security Studies. Supervisor: PhDr. Vít Střítecký, M.Phil., Ph.D.

## Abstract

Since its transition from British colonial rule to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong has undergone extensive developments, resulting in the emergence of a vibrant civil society. With thousands of agitated people, mainly students, taking to the streets, voicing their dissatisfaction with the governments' continued disregard of the demanded direct elections by universal suffrage, 2014 marked a turning point in Hong Kong. Whilst most citizens supported the pro-democracy movements, the Chinese government labeled it as a threat to national security, ignoring the fact that Beijing itself can, at times, be seen as a threat. With Hong Kong now facing its first high-level elections since the abrupt conclusion of the 79-day sit-in, now better known as "Umbrella Movement", it will be interesting to see whether its citizens are still "adding oil"<sup>1</sup> two years later, resulting in a high voter turnout and support of the pro-democracy camp.

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<sup>1</sup> "Add oil" is a transliteration deriving from the Cantonese "Ga Yao" (加油), used to encourage an individual or group. Initially being used during sports event, it now turned into a symbolic expression of support, after having been extensively used during the Umbrella Movement in 2014 (Bland 2015).