The topic of this thesis is the Western civilising process. The overarching goal is to analyse the prevalent trends in the Western civilising process to determine its nature. This is done by establishing whether the civilising process is universalistic in its scope and ambitions, how it is justified, and determining what are some of its problems. For a start the thesis seeks to establish the continuities and discontinuities of the civilising process between the pre-Cold War, Cold War, and post-Cold War periods to illustrate the direction in which the civilising process has been moving. Another aim of the paper is to look at the formation of the Truth to determine its role in justifying the civilising process in the domestic as well as the international arena. The thesis also looks to establish the place of the civilising process in the study of International Relations. This is done by looking at looking at the civilising process through liberalism to see its link to liberal thought. The thesis also links the civilising process to universalism and universal morality, as well as looking to establish its place in the pluralist/solidarist debate. In more practical terms the thesis focuses on the promotion of liberal agenda (democracy and market capitalism) as the main forms of the civilising process to give an idea of the problems and inadequacies of this approach. The thesis also aims to analyse the Democratic Peace Thesis to determine the grounds on which it is based, and the way it influences the civilising process.

The main conclusion of the paper is that the civilising process is universalistic in its rhetoric, while in practice it is self-interested and universalistic only to the extent which allows it to forward self-interested goals. Thus, in practice the civilising process often changes between being pluralist and solidarist. The thesis also concludes that the Western civilising process is justified mainly on front of the domestic audience and that it is conducted for the purposes of the domestic audience. Moreover, the thesis concludes that the concepts of the Truth and sacred are used to establish and justify the civilising process.

The literature this paper has mainly focused on were scientific journals and books, with some sources coming from the Internet and newspapers. Some of the more important works for the thesis have been Norbert Elias’s The Civilising Process, Girard’s Violence and the Sacred, Gowa's Ballots and Bullets and Heidegger's The Essence of Truth because they have been used to underline some of the core ideas of the thesis.