The Self-immolation of Oskar Brüsewitz Compared to Other Suicides Committed as a Political Protest
Contents

Introduction ................................................................................................................. 9

I. Altruistic suicide as a political protest ................................................................. 11
   I.1. Self-immolation as the most common form of an altruistic suicide committed as a political protest ............................................. 11
   I.2. Self-immolation in Asia .................................................................................. 16
      I.2.1. Self-immolation in the tradition of Buddhism and Hinduism ............... 16
      I.2.2. Socio-political causes of self-immolations in Vietnam and in the USA during the Vietnam War ......................................... 22
      I.2.3. From the self-immolation of Thich Quang Duc to the contemporary cases of self-immolation in Vietnam ............................ 26
      I.2.4. Cases of self-immolation in protest against the Vietnam War among Americans ................................................................. 35
      I.2.5. Cases of self-immolation among Tamils in Tamil Nadu in 1965 ................ 40
      I.2.6. Altruistic suicides committed as a political protest among Tibetans .......... 44
      I.2.7. Self-immolations in China (the Falun Gong sect) ..................................... 47
      I.2.8. Self-immolations of the Iranians ............................................................... 48
   I.3. Self-immolations in Central and Eastern Europe ........................................... 52
      I.3.2. Self-immolations in Czechoslovakia (Jan Palach, Jan Zajic, Evzen Plocek) in 1969 and in the Czech Republic in 2003 (Zdenek Adamec) .................................................. 56
      I.3.3. Socio-political situation in Poland in 1968 .............................................. 68
      I.3.4. Self-immolations of Ryszard Siwiec, Józef Dolak, and Walenty Badyłak .......................................................... 69
      I.3.5. Socio-political situation in Lithuania after the Second World War ............ 78
II. Self-Immolation of Oskar Brüsewitz – analysis of a phenomenon ................................................................. 91

II.1. Socio-political situation in the GDR ................................................................. 91

II.2. Self-Immolation of Oskar Brüsewitz ................................................................. 92

II.2.1. From East Prussia to East Germany ............................................................. 93

II.2.2. Theologian and anti-Communist ................................................................. 95

II.2.3. The evangelisation methods of Oskar Brüsewitz ......................................... 98

II.2.3.1. The cross ................................................................. 99

II.2.3.2. Poster actions ................................................................. 100

II.2.3.3. The evangelisation of the children and youth ......................................... 100

II.2.4. Repression and death ................................................................................. 101

II.2.4.1. Preparations ......................................................................................... 102

II.2.4.2. Self-immolation .................................................................................... 103

II.2.5. The perception of Oskar Brüsewitz’s action ............................................. 109

II.2.6. The Martyr ................................................................................................. 111

II.2.7. Followers ................................................................................................ 115

II.2.7.1. Self-immolation of Rolf Günther ......................................................... 115

Final conclusions ................................................................................................ 119

Bibliography ........................................................................................................ 133

Abstract ............................................................................................................... 143

Bibliographical notes of the authors .................................................................. 145

Index of Names ................................................................................................... 147