



# Elise Reimarus, an Enlightened Radical. Analysis and Interpretation of Freiheit (1791) with a First Spanish Translation. [

Ediciones Complutense,  
2024-05-28

[info:eu-repo/semantics/article](https://info.eu-repo/semantics/article)

[info:eu-repo/semantics/publishedVersion](https://info.eu-repo/semantics/publishedVersion)

Analítica

In this article I analyze the content of the book *Freiheti*, published anonymously in 1791 and recently attributed to the writer Elise Reimarus (1735-1803). It is a fundamental work of the Enlightenment period, which, however, has not yet received sufficient attention from scholars. In addition to providing a presentation of the text, examining the state of the art and offering an analysis of the book's content, I include the first Spanish translation of the text. My aim is to show that in fulfilling her goal of defining what freedom is, Reimarus conveys a double message. On the one hand, the philosopher praises the Hamburg constitution and calls upon her fellow citizens to obey the laws that make true freedom possible. On the other hand, she addresses the princes of Europe to call on them to introduce reforms in their political structures that guarantee human rights, equality and justice, as well as defending the legitimacy of political revolution, the need to adopt a democratic form of government and freedom of thought and expression. For all these reasons, and taking into account the way in which scholars define it, I believe that Elise Reimarus can be considered as an exponent of what is known as the radical Enlightenment

In this article I analyze the content of the book *Freiheti*, published anonymously in 1791 and recently attributed to the writer Elise Reimarus (1735-1803). It is a fundamental work of the Enlightenment period, which, however, has not yet received sufficient attention from scholars. In addition to providing a presentation of the text, examining the state of the art and offering an analysis of the book's content, I include the first Spanish translation of the text. My aim is to show that in fulfilling her goal of defining what freedom is, Reimarus conveys a double message. On the one hand, the philosopher praises the Hamburg constitution and calls upon her fellow citizens to obey the laws that make true freedom possible. On the other hand, she addresses the princes of Europe to call on them to introduce reforms in their political structures that guarantee human rights, equality and justice, as well as defending the legitimacy of political revolution, the need to adopt a democratic form of government and freedom of thought and expression. For all these reasons, and taking into account the way in which scholars define it, I believe that Elise Reimarus can be considered as an exponent of what is known as the radical Enlightenment

---

**Título:** Elise Reimarus, an Enlightened Radical. Analysis and Interpretation of Freiheit (1791) with a First Spanish Translation. electronic resource[.]

**Editorial:** Ediciones Complutense 2024-05-28

**Tipo Audiovisual:** libertad ilustración igualdad derechos humanos Justicia freedom enlightenement equality human rights justice

**Variantes del título:** Elise Reimarus, una ilustrada radical. Análisis e interpretación de Freiheit (1791), con una primera traducción al español

**Documento fuente:** Anales del Seminario de Historia de la Filosofía; Vol. 41 No. 2 (2024); 467-485

**Nota general:** application/pdf

**Restricciones de acceso:** Open access content. Open access content star

**Condiciones de uso y reproducción:** Derechos de autor 2023 Anales del Seminario de Historia de la Filosofía

**Lengua:** Spanish

**Enlace a fuente de información:** Anales del Seminario de Historia de la Filosofía; Vol. 41 No. 2 (2024); 467-485  
Anales del Seminario de Historia de la Filosofía; Vol. 41 Núm. 2 (2024); 467-485 1988-2564 0211-2337

**Otras relaciones:** <https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/ASHF/article/view/91759/4564456569335> /\*ref\*/Aaslestad, Katherine, Place and Politics: Local Identity, Civic Culture, and German Nationalism in North Germany during the Revolutionary Era. Brill: Leiden-Boston, 2005. Aaslestad, Katherine, "Old Visions and New Vices: Republicanism and Civic Virtue in Hamburg's Print Culture, 1790-1810". En Hohendahl, Peter Uwe, Patriotism, Cosmopolitanism, and National Culture Public Culture in Hamburg 1700-1933. Rodopi: Amsterdam-New York, 2003. AAVV, El ocaso de la Ilustración. La polémica del spinozismo, selección de textos, traducción, estudio preliminar y notas María Jimena Solé. Bernal: Editorial de la Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, 2013. Curtis-Wendlandt, Lisa, "No Right to Resist? Elise Reimarus's Freedom as a Kantian Response to the Problem of Violent Revolt". Hypatia 27, no. 4 (2012), 755-773. Curtis-Wendlandt, Lisa, "Staging Virtue: Women, Death, and Liberty in Elise Reimarus's Cato", Journal of the History of Ideas 74, no.1 (2013), 69-92. Curtis-Wendlandt, L., "Legality and Morality in the Political Thought of Elise Reimarus and Immanuel Kant" en Curtis-Wendlandt, L.; Gibbard, P. y Green, K. (eds.), Political Ideas of Enlightenment Women. Virtue and Citizenship. New York: Routledge, 2016. Ducheyne, Steffen, Reassessing the Radical Enlightenment. New York: Routledge, 2017. Ebbersmeyer, S. y Paganini, G., "Where are the female radicals?". Intellectual History Review 31, no.1, (2021), 1-6. Green, Karen, A History of Women's Political Thought in Europe, 1700-1800. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. Green, Karen, "Locke, Enlightenment, and Liberty in the Works of Catharine Macaulay and Her Contemporaries". En Broad, Jacqueline y Detlefsen, Karen (eds.), Women and Liberty 1600-1800: Philosophical Essays, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, 82-94. Hohendahl, Peter Uwe, Patriotism, Cosmopolitanism, and National Culture Public Culture in Hamburg 1700-1933. Rodopi: Amsterdam-New York, 2003. Israel, J., Radical Enlightenment. Philosophy and the Making of M

---

## Baratz Innovación Documental

- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- [informa@baratz.es](mailto:informa@baratz.es)