

Reading and Rebellion in Catholic Germany, 1770–1914

Popular conceptions of Catholic censorship, symbolized above all by the Index of Forbidden Books, figure prominently in secular definitions of freedom. To be intellectually free is to enjoy access to knowledge unimpeded by any religious authority. But how would the history of freedom change if these conceptions were false?

In this panoramic study of Catholic book culture in Germany from 1770 to 1914, Jeffrey T. Zalar exposes the myth of faith-based intellectual repression. Catholic readers disobeyed the book rules of their church in a vast apostasy that raised personal desire and conscience over communal responsibility and doctrine. This disobedience sparked a dramatic contest between lay readers and their priests over proper book behavior that played out in homes, schools, libraries, parish meeting halls, and even church confessionals. The clergy lost this contest in a fundamental reordering of cultural power that helped usher in contemporary Catholicism.

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*To my parents and parents-in-law,
Frank and Judy Zalar
&
Gary and Sonja Pederson*

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Abbreviations

AEK	Historisches Archiv des Erzbistums Köln
<i>Af</i>	<i>Arbeiterfreund. Nebenblatt zum “Paulinus-Blatt”</i>
AGB	<i>Archiv für Geschichte des Buchwesens</i>
AKbDP	<i>Amtliches Kirchenblatt für die Diözese Paderborn</i>
<i>AunW</i>	<i>Alte und neue Welt. Illustriertes katholisches Familienblatt zur Unterhaltung und Belehrung</i>
<i>Aw</i>	<i>Arbeiterwohl. Organ des Verbandes katholischer Industrieller und Arbeiterfreunde</i>
BAT	Bistumsarchiv Trier
BB	<i>Borromäus-Blätter. Zeitschrift für Bibliotheks- und Bücherwesen</i>
BBfF	<i>Borromäus-Blätter (freie Folge)</i>
BkWP	<i>Blätter für kirchliche Wissenschaft und Praxis</i>
BVhKB	<i>Blätter des Vereins vom heiligen Karl Borromäus</i>
BVL	<i>Blätter für Volksbibliotheken und Lesehallen</i>
CRI	Cabinetts-Registratur (Altbestand)
CRII	Cabinetts-Registratur (Neubestand)
CZWN	<i>Charitas. Zeitschrift für die Werke der Nächstenliebe im katholischen Deutschland</i>
DA	Dekanatsarchiv
DAL	Diözesanarchiv Limburg
DB	<i>Die Bücherwelt. Zeitschrift für Bibliotheks- und Bücherwesen</i>
DBMA	<i>Der Bibliothekar. Monatsschrift für Arbeiterbibliotheken</i>
DBZLV	<i>Die Bücherwelt. Zeitschrift für Literatur und Volksbüchereien</i>

DK	<i>Der Katholik</i>
DKBl	<i>Die Kunst, Bücher zu lesen. Nebst Bemerkungen über Schriften und Schriftsteller</i>
DkSS	<i>Der Katholische Seelsorger. Wissenschaftlich-praktische Monatsschrift für den Klerus Deutschlands</i>
DnJ	<i>Das neue Jahrhundert. Wochenschrift für religiöse Kultur</i>
DnJodM	<i>Das neue Jahrhundert. Organ der deutschen Modernisten</i>
EBAP	Erzbistumsarchiv Paderborn
EblPB	<i>Extrabeilage zum Paulinus-Blatt</i>
ESblDT	<i>Eucharis. Sonntagsblatt für die Diözese Trier</i>
HpBl	<i>Historisch-politische Blätter</i>
IASdL	<i>Internationales Archiv für Sozialgeschichte der deutschen Literatur</i>
KABT	<i>Kirchlicher Amtsanzeiger für das Bisthum Trier</i>
KADM	<i>Kirchliches Amtsblatt der Diözese Münster</i>
KA EK	<i>Kirchlicher Anzeiger für die Erzdiözese Köln</i>
LH	<i>Literarische Handweiser, zunächst für alle Katholiken deutscher Zunge</i>
LtpM	<i>Linzer theologisch-praktische Monatsschrift</i>
MPB	<i>Münsterisches Pastoralblatt</i>
MVhKB	<i>Monatsblatt des Vereins vom heiligen Karl Borromäus</i>
NuO	<i>Natur und Offenbarung. Organ zur Vermittlung zwischen Naturforschung und Glauben für Gebildete aller Stände</i>
NVKB	<i>Nachrichten für die Vereine vom hl. Karl Borromäus</i>
PBScF	<i>Paulinus-Blatt. Sonntagsblatt für die christliche Familie</i>
PBZWP	<i>Pastor Bonus. Zeitschrift für kirchliche Wissenschaft und Praxis</i>
PfA	Pfarrarchiv (parish archive)
QGRZfR	<i>Quellen zur Geschichte des Rheinlandes im Zeitalter der französischen Revolution 1780–1801</i>
SK	<i>Soziale Kultur</i>
SML	<i>Stimmen aus Maria-Laach</i>
SPBdV	<i>Sankt Paulinus-Blatt für das deutsche Volk</i>
SQB	<i>St. Quirinus-Blatt. Wochenschrift zur religiösen Belehrung und Erbauung</i>
SR	<i>Soziale Revue. Zeitschrift für die sozialen Fragen der Gegenwart</i>
TBf	<i>Trierischer Bauernfreund</i>
TpM	<i>Theologisch-praktische Monatsschrift</i>

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VB	<i>Volksbildung. Zeitschrift für öffentliches Vortragswesen, Volksanstalten und freies fortbildungswesen in Deutschland</i>
VbA	<i>Volksbildungsarchiv. Beiträge zur wissenschaftlichen Vertiefung der Volksbildungsbestrebungen</i>
VK	<i>Volkskunst. Monatschrift für Theater und verwandte Bestrebungen in den katholischen Vereinen</i>
VüK	<i>Vorstellungen über den Krieg, den man itzt gefährlichen Schriften anzukündigen hat; an alle so wohl geistliche, als weltliche Oberkeiten</i>
ZEBPB	<i>Zweite Extra-Beilage zum Paulinus-Blatt</i>