

VU Research Portal

The Usefulness of the Kantian Philosophy

Marx, K.J.

2010

document version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in VU Research Portal](#)

citation for published version (APA)

Marx, K. J. (2010). *The Usefulness of the Kantian Philosophy: How Karl Leonhard Reinhold's Commitment to Enlightenment Influenced His Reception of Kant*. [PhD-Thesis - Research and graduation internal, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam].

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

E-mail address:

vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments *ix*

Abbreviations *xi*

Note on citation and translation *xiii*

Introduction *i*

1. Reinhold's life and works *13*

1.1 Vienna (1757-1783) *13*

1.2 Leipzig (1783-1784) *20*

1.3 Weimar (1784-1787) *22*

1.4 Jena (1787-1794) *26*

2. Reinhold's Enlightenment *29*

2.1 Determining the concept 'Enlightenment' *30*

2.2 History and Enlightenment *35*

2.2.1 The rationality of institutions over time *35*

2.2.2 The development of human reason *38*

- 2.3 Human reason 42
 - 2.3.1 Reason and sensibility in matters of religion and superstition 42
 - 2.3.2 Human reason and human nature 46
- 2.4 Reinhold's Enlightenment versus blind faith: 'Ueber den Hang zum Wunderbaren', *Herzenerleichterung zweyer Menschenfreunden* and 'Skizze einer Theogonie des blinden Glaubens' 49
- 2.5 Evaluation: Reinhold's commitment to Enlightenment 55

- 3. Reinhold's way to Kant 63
 - 3.1 The controversy surrounding Herder's *Ideen*: a story of a polemical exchange 65
 - 3.1.1 Kant versus Herder 66
 - 3.1.2 Reinhold versus Kant 69
 - 3.1.3 Kant versus Reinhold 72
 - 3.2 Voigt's request and Reinhold's plan: a story of political and economic interests 73
 - 3.3 Reinhold's own statements regarding his interest in Kant: a story of religious and intellectual crisis 79
 - 3.4 Evaluation: weaving the stories together 86

- 4. 'Practical reason' in the *Merkur*-'Briefe' 93
 - 4.1 The 'Briefe über die Kantische Philosophie' and the pantheism controversy: the first two 'Briefe' (August 1786) 94
 - 4.2 Reinhold's Kantian solution to the problem of the rational foundation of religion: the remainder of the *Merkur*-'Briefe' 102
 - 4.2.1 The third and fourth 'Briefe': Systematic and historical backgrounds to Reinhold's claim concerning Kant 104
 - 4.2.2 The final four 'Briefe' 117
 - 4.3 Evaluation: practical reason and pure sensibility 129
 - 4.3.1 Practical reason 129
 - 4.3.2 Pure sensibility 134

5.	‘Practical reason’ in the <i>Versuch einer neuen Theorie des menschlichen Vorstellungsvermögens</i>	139
5.1	Historical context of the <i>Versuch</i>	141
5.2	Structure and aims of the <i>Versuch</i>	146
5.2.1	Preface	149
5.2.2	Book I: the need for a theory of the faculty of representation	150
5.2.3	Book II: the theory of the faculty of representation	153
5.2.4	Book III: the theory of the faculty of cognition	156
5.3	Evaluation: practical reason in the <i>Versuch</i>	166
5.3.1	‘Practical reason’/‘pure sensibility’ and the theory of the faculty of representation	167
5.3.2	Section 86 and Rehberg’s review of Kant’s second <i>Critique</i>	172
6.	‘Practical reason’ from <i>Versuch einer neuen Theorie des menschlichen Vorstellungsvermögens</i> to the second volume of <i>Briefe über die Kantische Philosophie</i>	181
6.1	Practical reason and the will up to <i>Briefe II</i>	184
6.1.1	‘Grundlinien’: implicit identification of practical reason and pure will	184
6.1.2	<i>NTM</i> -essays from 1791: explicit identification of practical reason and the will	188
6.1.3	‘Beytrag’-essay: distinction between practical reason and the will	193
6.2	<i>Briefe II</i>	195
6.2.1	Structure and aims of <i>Briefe II</i>	196
6.2.2	Contents of <i>Briefe II</i>	199
6.3	Evaluation: freeing the will	218
	Conclusion	227
	Bibliography	235
	Samenvatting – Summary in Dutch	249