

# “A *Philosophe*’s Call for Enlightenment: How Voltaire Used Images of an Idealized Other to Advocate Reform in France”



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This thesis discusses how Voltaire depicted non-French, and frequently non-European others across multiple genres. It argues that Voltaire’s presentations of otherness does more than represent the *philosophe* tradition that he embodied, they represent how the *philosophes*’ responded to censorship in eighteenth-century France by using commentaries on other cultures to critique French popular attitudes and promote reforms within France itself. More broadly, they make us reconsider the rhetorical purpose of otherness altogether as it operated within eighteenth-century Europe.