

Heinrich von Kleist (1777-1811)

german dramatic poet

Kleist served (1792–99) in the Prussian army and led an unhappy life that ended in suicide.

Among his passionate tragedies is Penthesilea (1808), The Prince of Homburg, (1821, tr. 1956), a historical tragedy.

Kleist's terse, dynamic style and his sense of conflict : between reason and feeling, divine law and human law : are also evident in his novellas.

Best known of these is Michael Kohlhaas (1808-10, tr. 1967).

Enlightenment and Reformation

both pretty revolutionary, yet neither kant nor luther endorsed public resistance to authority

luther: 95 theses did, however, help ignit the peasant war of 1524