

question: Is Michael Kohlhaas a terrorist?

Wolfgang Wittkowski says this:

471/ mk commits acts of terrorism
but he willingly accepts decapitation
in the enlightened Rechtsstaat of brandenburg

but of course, there are other elements of the story that interrupt this legal disquisition

what are they? mysticism

This novel is a study of the use and abuse of the law...
how the law is used to political advantage

question let's reconstruct the plot

question how is mk described?

opening graph: both honorable and terrible

question what's romantic about him?

outraged, tortured, half-mad... in other words, close to god

question how is martin luther described?

he's a referee

question how does ml's regard for mk change?

first ml leads public defamation of rebel
then, after their meeting he grants mk the
holy communion
that he had once denied him

while alive, lisbeth wanted MK to forgive; he resists.

as gypsy, she gives him a weapon to save his life and finish his destroyer
-- but he can choose this freely

MK becomes deadly avenger of justice violated

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21G.061 Advanced Topics: Plotting Terror in European Culture
Spring 2004

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.