In this book Robert R. Clewis shows how certain crucial concepts in Kant’s aesthetics and practical philosophy – the sublime, enthusiasm, freedom, empirical and intellectual interests, the idea of a republic – fit together and deepen our understanding of Kant’s philosophy. He examines the ways in which different kinds of sublimity reveal freedom and indirectly contribute to morality, and discusses how Kant’s account of natural sublimity suggests that we have an indirect duty with regard to nature. Unlike many other studies of these themes, this book examines both the pre-Critical Observations and the remarks that Kant wrote in his copy of the Observations. Finally, Clewis takes seriously Kant’s claim that enthusiasm is aesthetically sublime, and shows how this clarifies Kant’s views of the French Revolution. His book will appeal to all who are interested in Kant’s philosophy.

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THE KANTIAN SUBLIME
AND THE REVELATION
OF FREEDOM

ROBERT R. CLEWIS
per Elisa
Conversely, even that which we call sublime in nature outside us or even within ourselves (e.g., certain affects) is represented only as a power of the mind to soar above certain obstacles of sensibility by means of moral principles, and thereby to become interesting.

I should like to dwell a little on the last point. The idea of the good with affect is called enthusiasm. This state of mind seems to be sublime, so much so that it is commonly maintained that without it nothing great can be accomplished. Now, however, every affect is blind, either in the choice of its end, or, even if this end is given by reason, in its implementation; for it is that movement of the mind that makes it incapable of engaging in free consideration of principles, in order to determine itself in accordance with them. Thus it cannot in any way merit a satisfaction of reason. Nevertheless, enthusiasm is aesthetically sublime, because it is a stretching of the powers through ideas, which give the mind a momentum that acts far more powerfully and persistently than the impetus given by sensory representations. Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (Kritik der Urteilskraft 5:272)

The color of the sublime is red. Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (Kritik der Urteilskraft 5:302)
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Abbreviations and notes on Kant’s texts

Except for the references to the Critique of Pure Reason, references to Kant are to the volume:page number of Kants gesammelte Schriften (KGS), published by the Deutsche (formerly Königlich Preußische) Akademie der Wissenschaften, 29 vols. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1902–). The references to the Critique of Pure Reason are to the A and B pagination of the first and second editions, respectively. References to the Remarks are to the volume:page number of the KGS followed by the page number in the Rischmüller edition (Bemerkungen in den “Beobachtungen über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen,” ed. Marie Rischmüller [Hamburg: Felix Meiner Verlag, 1991]). Translations from the Remarks are my own, as are translations from works for which no English translation is listed below. References to the Observations are to the volume:page number of the KGS followed by the page in the Goldthwait translation from which I quote (Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and the Sublime, trans. John Goldthwait [Berkeley: University of California Press, 1960]).

The abbreviations below are used to cite Kant’s texts; any texts not abbreviated below are cited only by the KGS volume:page number. English translations that are used in citations are listed below. It should be noted, however, that I have occasionally modified these translations. Translations that were consulted but not cited from can be found in the bibliography. Finally, it should be pointed out that bold font is used throughout this book to reproduce Kant’s original emphasis.

AM Anthropologie Mrongovius
AP Anthropologie Parow
xii  Abbreviations and notes on Kant’s texts


GTP  Über den Gebrauch teleologischer Principien in der Philosophie


ID  De mundi sensibilis atque intelligibilis forma et principiis [Inaugural Dissertation]


M  Menschenkunde

MA  Mutmaßlicher Anfang der Menschengeschichte


PPH  Praktische Philosophie Herder


Refl  Reflexionen

Rem  Bemerkungen in den “Beobachtungen über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen”
Abbreviations and notes on Kant's texts


VK  Versuch über die Krankheiten des Kopfes