



Sun Tzu and the Art of Modern Warfare

By Mark R. McNeilly

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Long acknowledged as a classic text on strategy, Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* had been admired by leaders as diverse as Mao Zedong and General Norman Schwarzkopf. However, written two thousand years old, the book can often be hard to fathom.

Now Mark McNeilly, author of *Sun Tzu and the Art of Business*, which made Sun Tzu accessible to the business executive, has extracted six concepts most applicable to modern warfare, making them easy to understand and apply to military situations. Drawing on a wealth of fascinating historical examples, McNeilly shows how these six principles might be used in wars of the future--limited actions, regional conflicts--and how they can provide insight into current affairs, such as the future course of China's increasingly important strategic and military role in the world. He describes how to win the information war, how to lead by example, and how to use alliances to defeat the opponent. Perhaps the most important lesson to be learned from Sun Tzu, especially for strategists who want to maximize their resources, is how to "win without fighting". And, should fighting be unavoidable, victory should be achieved in a manner that minimizes losses, leaves the victor stronger and ensures a lasting peace.

Including the full text of *The Art of War* in the popular Griffith translation, with cross-references to quotations used in the book, *Sun Tzu and the Art of Modern Warfare* unlocks these elusive secrets for anyone interested in strategy and warfare, whether they are professional soldiers, military history buffs, or business executives.

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Sun Tzu and the Art of Modern Warfare By Mark R. McNeilly Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1816774 in Books
- Published on: 2001-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.10" h x 1.30" w x 6.00" l, 1.34 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"When the strike of a hawk breaks the body of its prey, it is because of timing." So wrote the Chinese strategist Sun Tzu more than two millennia ago in the text that has come to be known as *The Art of War*, one that guides military planners to this day. Former infantry officer Mark McNeilly examines the lessons of Sun Tzu's book not metaphorically, as he did for the boardroom in his *Sun Tzu and the Art of Business*, but literally, considering its dicta on such matters as the necessity of speedy action and solid leadership in the light of real battles and campaigns throughout history--and those yet to be fought. For instance, McNeilly looks at the Allied victory over Iraq in the light of Sun Tzu's pronouncement, "Just as flowing water avoids the heights and hastens to the lowlands, so an army avoids strength and strikes weakness." Matching intelligent commentary with a complete text of Sun Tzu's classic, McNeilly's book is of much interest to students of military history and current events alike. --Gregory McNamee

From Library Journal

Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* is an acknowledged classic of military theory that has been used as a reference by the profession of arms for centuries. A marketing strategist for IBM, former infantry officer, and author of *Sun Tzu and the Art of Business*, McNeilly has updated an admittedly difficult text by annotating it with examples drawn from military experiences (mainly Civil War and World War II vignettes) familiar to Americans. The book includes the full text of the popular translation by Samuel B. Griffith. Much of the added commentary favorably compares Sun Tzu's approach to that of Carl von Clausewitz, the German writer whose *On War* has dominated much of Western military thinking for two centuries. McNeilly's vignettes are often strained, stretching the interpretation of events to make them fit the maxims, but the result may be to make a classic somewhat more accessible to a modern audience not steeped in military traditions. Recommended where demand exists. Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army Combined Arms Research Lib., Fort Leavenworth, KS

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Review

"At first I thought it was just common sense, but if you pay attention to what he's saying, here's a guy, a Chinese general, wrote this thing 2,400 years ago, most of it still applies today."--Tony Soprano, from *The Sopranos*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Bauer:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *Sun Tzu and the Art of Modern Warfare*. Try to face the book *Sun Tzu and the Art of Modern Warfare* as your pal. It means that it can to get your friend when you sense alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we should make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

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