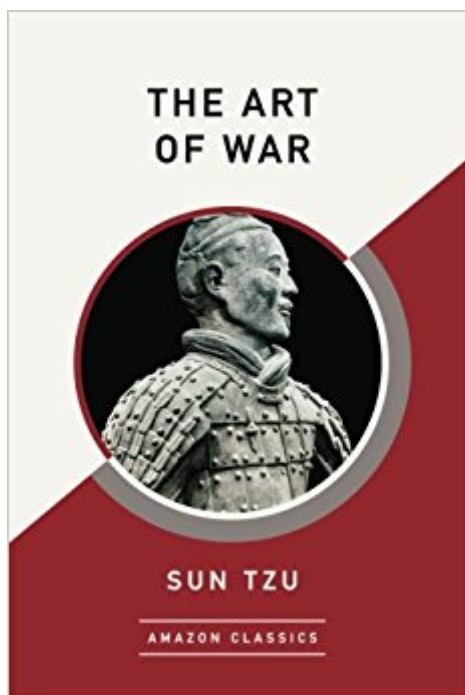


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# The Art Of War (Classics Edition)



## Synopsis

Long considered the most essential treatise on military strategy and tactics, *The Art of War* comprises thirteen chapters, each dedicated to a different aspect of warfare. Reaching far beyond the battlefield, it is a manifesto for success in every kind of conflict or competition, having had a notable influence on various subjects such as law, sports, and interpersonal relationships. In this definitive 1910 Lionel Giles translation, the celebrated sinologist's interpretive notes and valuable commentary make clear the nuances of Sun Tzu's language. Most critical, Giles provides the context and culture from which the general's theories emerged. Revised edition: Previously published as *The Art of War*, this edition of *The Art of War* (Classics Edition) includes editorial revisions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Though historical details of his life have been debated, Sun Tzu (544 BC – c. 496 BC) is believed to have been a general, philosopher, and military strategist who lived during ancient China's Spring and Autumn period. Legend describes him as a fierce and uncompromising military leader; one tale famously recounts his ability to turn even the king's concubines into unequivocally loyal soldiers. Revered in Asian culture for centuries, Sun Tzu and his philosophy of war – from dealing with personal conflicts to achieving unqualified success in battle – eventually found favor in Western culture as well. Today, *The Art of War* remains an unrivaled text for strategic lessons of survival...in and out of battle. Son of British diplomat and notable sinologist Herbert Giles, Lionel Giles (1875 – c. 1958) was a translator, scholar, and assistant curator of the British Museum. Perhaps most well known for his 1910 translation of *The Art*

of War, Giles translated numerous Chinese classics, including the Tao Te Ching and the Analects of Confucius. He received his BA in classics from Wadham College, University of Oxford, in 1899.

5.0 stars. One of the most influential books ever written . Amazingly its wisdom is still very relevant today even after over 2500 years. Little wars are waged daily. Its a battlefield whether in the office, business, relationship or sports coaching. Applicable to everyday situations."Know the enemy and know yourself; in a hundred battles you will never be in peril. When you are ignorant of the enemy, but know yourself, your chances of winning or losing are equal. If ignorant both of your enemy and yourself, you are certain in every battle to be in peril.""When the enemy is relaxed, make them toil. When full, starve them. When settled, make them move.""In conflict, straightforward actions generally lead to engagement, surprising actions generally lead to victory.""Thus those skilled in war subdue the enemy's army without battle .... They conquer by strategy.""In war, numbers alone confer no advantage.""To ... not prepare is the greatest of crimes; to be prepared beforehand for any contingency is the greatest of virtues.""What is of the greatest importance in war is extraordinary speed: One cannot afford to neglect opportunity."

This is a pretty famous book of wisdom, but the casual Western reader might find it harder to tease out of this book than some of the books they may be used to reading. This book is organized as short choppy little nuggets of thoughts on conflict, training, and competition. If you're looking for a grand, well-articulated prose that boils down to a main point you'll be quite confused and not everyone has the patience to learn how to read with pauses for reflection on application every few paragraphs. I'm not a linguist or a historian, so I can't speak much on how well this translates from the original, but it does seem to preserve a mindset from the past that is worth preserving.

This book is not a read for everyone. But, it is for those who want to learn how the great leader (Sun Tzu) lead his mighty army to victory with great and excellent principles. I actually bought this book to help me with my spiritual life for spiritual warfare. It helped me tremendously! It is a very good book for any individual or business that wants to change their living experience for the better. The principles in this book will overhaul anyones current situation and help them move in extreme excellence while doing so. 1. Supreme excellence consists of breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting. 2. Thus we may know that there are five essentials for victory: 1 He will win who knows when to fight and when not to fight. 2 He will win who knows how to handle both superior and inferior forces. 3 He will win whose army is animated by the

same spirit throughout all its ranks.<sup>4</sup> He will win who, prepared himself, waits to take the enemy unprepared.<sup>5</sup> He will win who has military capacity and is not interfered with by the sovereign.

— Sun Tzu, The Art of War

I thought it was appropriate to listen to this millenia old Chinese book on the way to Beijing. I've heard it is the most read book of all time apart from the Bible. It's about military strategy but puts it in a way that can apply to almost any kind of achieving-your-goals situation you want to apply it to. The audio edition is only an hour and 15 mins long (without commentary) so the investment was minimal, and for the investment...worth it. A predecessor to the modern self help genre. Could be a good one to read when you are pushing to achieve some goals. "It is not enough to put ones trust in the tethering of horses or in chariot wheels in the ground" ... Sound similar to the bible readers? Don't command "the army to advance or retreat, being ignorant that it cannot obey. This is called hobbling the army." I read the Giles translation...seemed good.

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