Understanding Sun Tzu on the Art of War

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Paperback: 122 pages ; Dimensions (in inches): 0.30 x 8.68 x 5.86
Publisher: Center for Advantage; (March 2003)
ISBN: 0972291407

Heartland Reviews

As a retired military intelligence professional and conflict theorist, I must say this is the best interpretation of Sun Tzu’s classic work I have read. The author focuses on the meanings behind this ancient Chinese war philosopher’s writings. He puts them into a modern context, making them easy to understand. Apparently the Department of Defense agrees with me on this, since they have selected Mr. Cantrell’s book as a text for the National War College in Washington DC. This is a must read for all military officers and business leaders. It rated a perfect five hearts.

Bob Spear – Publisher and Chief Reviewer

Description

Sun Tzu on the Art of War, an ancient Chinese treatise on military strategy, is now required reading at military, business, and law schools in the United States and around the world. Possibly no book in history better describes how to win conflicts in any profession. Those who practice conflict resolution frequently use Sun Tzu’s philosophies as the cornerstone of their ways.

Understanding Sun Tzu on the Art of War explores the meaning of Sun Tzu’s philosophies through the use of high impact case examples, most involving American or British military forces. While also presenting strategic tools for use in any professional conflict, this book never lets readers forget that the original Chinese text is about war. For those with an interest in current military events, this book provides fertile ground for discussion on coalition war methods and aims. For all professions, military or otherwise, this book gets to the heart of efficient conflict resolution theory. Topics discussed include:

INTRODUCTION – A brief history of Sun Tzu on the Art of War and the underlying Taoist philosophy from which it was written
WINNING WHOLE – How to win with your resources and your objective intact
LEADING TO ADVANTAGE – How to prepare and position your soldiers for victory
DECEPTION – How to keep your intentions secret from opponents
ENERGY – How to apply force effectively and efficiently
STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES – How to find the best path to the goal
INITIATIVE – How to take and keep the advantage
SUN TZU ON THE ART OF WAR – A complete translation
CONCLUSION – Philosophical significance of Sun Tzu on the Art of War in conflict resolution

Reviewer’s Choice Selection for Midwest Book Reviews

Robert L. Cantrell’s Understanding Sun Tzu On The Art Of War contains both the complete translated text of Sun Tzu’s enduring classic on battle strategy, and a modern-day interpretation packed with advice on leadership, learning to keep one’s intentions a secret from one’s opponents, leveraging advantages as the key to victory, and a great deal more. An excellent resource for anyone seeking self-improvement through internalizing Sun Tzu’s wisdom, Understanding Sun Tzu on the Art of War is thoughtful and thought-provoking reading of the highest order.
Sun Tzu provides war tactics by using philosophical concepts. Applying deep thought and understanding of war (Graham 44). This includes leadership, business, and human behavior. There are many arguments relating to this text ranging from its morality to its usefulness, and even its authorship. The Art of War is a piece of literature that has withstood the tests of time. Written before the recording of Chinese history, information regarding Sun Tzu and this classic text is limited. The time in which Sun Tzu lived is argued amongst scholars. While one researcher suggests the book was written after 500 BC, another claims Sun Tzu lived sometime around 770 to 475 BC. Sun Tzu. Art of War. I. LAYING PLANS. 1. Sun Tzu said: The art of war is of vital importance to the State. 2. It is a matter of life and death. Click here to read Chapters 2 through 13 of Sun Tzu on the Art of War. Sun Tzu and Martial Arts. 12 Ways to Stay Alive. Sun Tzu and Video Games. Understanding Sun Tzu on the Art of War.