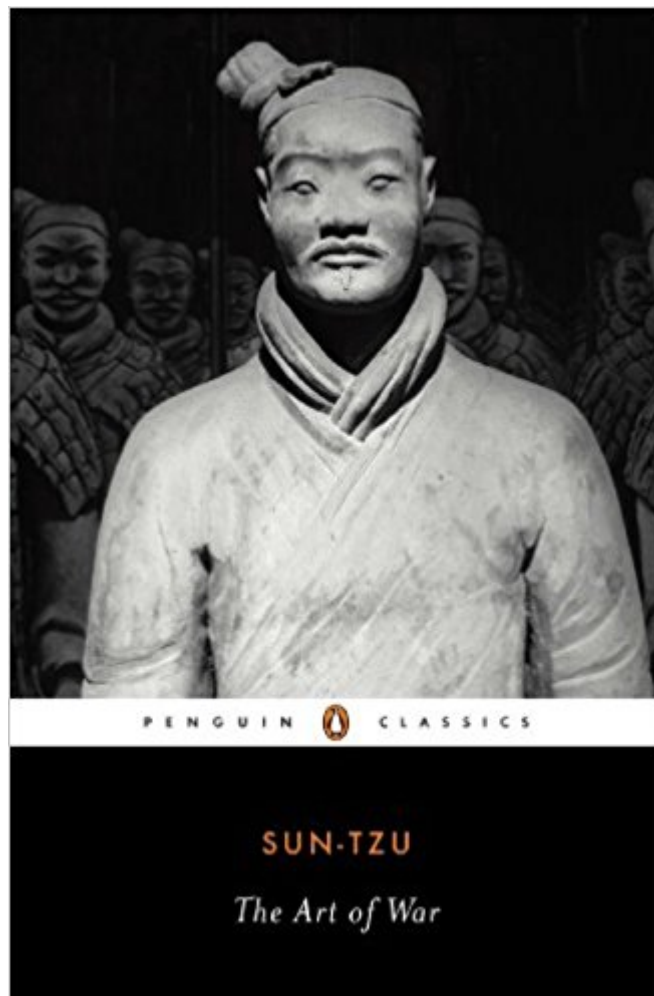




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# The Art Of War: The Essential Translation Of The Classic Book Of Life (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

The world's most famous military treatise, in an acclaimed translation – For more than two thousand years, Sun-tzu's *The Art of War* has provided leaders with essential advice on battlefield tactics and management strategies. An elemental part of Chinese culture, it has also become a touchstone for the Western struggle for survival and success, whether in battle, in business, or in relationships. Now, in this crisp, accessible translation, eminent scholar John Minford brings this seminal work to life for today's readers. Capturing the literary quality of the work, Minford presents the core text in two formats: first, the unadorned ancient words of wisdom ascribed to Sun-tzu; then, the same text with extensive running commentary from the canon of traditional Chinese commentators. A lively, learned introduction and other valuable apparatus round out this authoritative volume.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sun-tzu's *The Art of War* has led military strategists, economists, politicians and other leaders for more than 2,000 years, and has been translated numerous times. Scholar Minford takes a crack at it here, offering a new translation, introduction and commentary. This fundamental volume could be one of the best in recent years, as it features notes on pronunciation, suggestions for further reading, a chronology of Chinese dynasties and historical events, and more. After these briefings, Minford separates the book in two: first, a straightforward translation of Sun-tzu's book, and second, the translation coupled with commentary. "The Art of War is both inspirational and worrying. It is

beautiful and chilling....It lends itself to infinite applications," Minford writes. Indeed, this new translation is accessible to anyone seeking guidance, whether they're learning to drive defensively, ironing out relationship kinks or conducting war. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
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"The strategic advice that [The Art of War] offers concerns much more than the conduct of war. It is an ancient book of proverbial wisdom, a book of life." — John Minford, from the Introduction

I want to tell future readers of this book in this way. I read it first when I was 14 or 15. I thought it was a book on how to smartly fight a war. Then I re-read it when I was 28 and it occurred to me that it may be an instruction book on how to navigate an honorable life. Years passed and I recently found it at the bottom of a box in my closet. I read it again at age 56. I realized it has more to offer. If you read this book, you will actively have to replace Sun Tzu's ancient terms and placement of hierarchy and apply them to modern situations and people. Family, bosses, neighbors, employees and the list goes on. It is my belief that this "manual" can help solve minor and major disruptions in life if used correctly. It is a book meant for good.

Sunzi was renowned for his battle strategies and philosophies. His writing are among the classics of must read art of warfare around today regardless of how many thousands of years old it may be. This book provide readers with the understanding of war, how to attack and enemy and how to defeat an enemy. I am a warrior at heart and in practice I work in a field of enforcement so knowing my enemy and well as knowing myself is a real philosophy. Keep my friends close and my enemies closer another aspect of this war masters doctrine.

I normally don't give review unless I feel/think it's exceptional. Well this book is..After doing some research and finding that the origin was written roughly 2,500 years ago. It's still required at west point, and some major institutions of learning require its study. I purchased my son and myself copies and have reviewed its commentary content with him numerous times with him. The writings have been applied to many fields, well outside of the military. Much of the text is about how to fight wars without actually having to do battle. Giving tips on how to outsmart one's opponent so that physical battle is not necessary. As such, it has found application as a training guide for many competitive endeavors that do not involve actual combat. There are business books applying its lessons to "office politics" and corporate strategy. Many Japanese companies make the book

required reading for their key executives. The book is also popular among Western business management, who have turned to it for inspiration and advice on how to succeed in competitive business situations. It has also been applied to the field of education. The Art of War has been the subject of various law books and legal articles on the trial process, including negotiation tactics and trial strategy. The Art of War has also been applied in the world of sports. NFL coach Bill Belichick is known to have read the book and used its lessons to gain insights in preparing for games

Straight from Sun Tzu without anyone telling you what he said. The book is short and it is up to use the knowledge.

The Art of War is one of those more than two millennia old, forever classics without which humankind would not be what it is today. Against today's modern weaponry and technology, The Art of War stands obviously a bit dated and occasionally even naive. Many of its teachings are just commonsensical and widely accepted today. But they wouldn't be if Sun Tzu hadn't written them when he did. It's difficult to go through a successful life without having read it. It's my third time in full, dozens of times in fragments. I always get something out of it. Please, don't think it is only of military interest and study. Its teachings are universal because life is a war, not against other people, but mostly against circumstances and difficulties of all nature. Sun Tzu, however much he just sounds very commonsensical and obvious today, just teaches us to win those wars.

Ancient Wisdom when dealing with battle and military might. I guess I was expecting the wisdom to translate over into everyday life in the modern corporate or civilian world. It didn't. However after studying this book I have learned that strategy and taking your enemy into account in all its variables weakness and strengths is to have higher ground when accessing your attack plans. Basically know your enemy inside and out then let them fall prey to your plans. I am glad this was a short book because it took a lot of strain to decipher this stuff. It wasn't a fun read at all but I am glad that now I can say that I read it. Definitely a read for those with an acquired taste. Otherwise a more compatible self empowerment book may be more useful.

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