

Lecture Notes for Sun Tzu's Art of War

I 13

I 21

I 3

II 16

II 6

XIII 10

XIII 2

Useful information because it is general.

Some of the advice is fairly obvious.

“All warfare is based on deception.”

- Is this true? Most said yes.

Would terrorists write this differently?

-Yes, they would probably give very different examples, but the actual message would be nearly the same.

War was more accepted back in Sun Tzu's day.

People need much more justification to go to war nowadays.

War is inevitable according to Sun Tzu, so it is best to prepare for it.

Taoist aspect- when he is strong avoid your enemy. Strike when he is weak.

Haste in war is important, one must not prolong war.

A man must have humanity to be a good general.

Commanders who hold the wealth and rank acquired in war in too high of a regard are not good leaders.

Agents must be kept as secret as possible. If agent shares any information, he and anyone he told must be killed – Legalist correlation.

Battle plans must be guarded with utmost care.

To use agents, one must be humane. This is contradictory because of the inherent manipulation of agents.

Opposite view: It is humane because it contributes to success.

Treat the agents well because they are useful war tools, not because they are people.

General must have sincerity, but warfare is based on deception.

Wisdom and humanity = Confucian values

Passages can be used for competition of any kind.

Corporate culture can be related.

Attacking is too easy for America because we are so much more advanced.

Taliban, Viet Cong – Utilized deception to penetrate weaknesses.

War – winning at all costs.