

HH1 – Sun Tzu

Topics

- War is important? – HH2
- Factors of War – HH2
- Qualities of a good general – HH2
- Story of Warfare – HH7
- “The Divine Net” HH8
- Another Warfare story – HH4 #23
- Who is hurt by war – HH6 # 13
- Who can use secret agents – HH9 #13

Discussion

- War is important?
 - War is protection of power
 - During warring states period it is necessary
 - It is a necessary response to any ‘us vs. them’ situation
 - Good vs. evil – Hitler as example
 - Used to gain land/power/glory
- What you need for war – Do you need all the things listed?
 - Perhaps put same items in different order?
 - Is “adequacy of ruler’s humanity” necessary knowledge for war?
 - Council as check and balance to the ruler
 - No wars on a whim
- Qualities of a good general

- Is a good general Confucian in nature?
- Are there any unnamed ideas that are unimportant?
 - Experience
 - Does experience fall under the category of wisdom (which is named)?
- Story about warfare
 - What are the philosophies in this story?
 - It tells how to enrage soldiers vs. enemy
 - These are conscripted soldiers
 - Need to be motivated
 - Soldiers in today's world
 - Want to do it...?
 - Want to “make something of yourself”
 - People's inherent desires haven't changed
 - Motivate with something else?
 - Freedom?
 - This is a non-democratic society
 - Freedom is somewhat foreign concept
 - Soldiers as missionaries?
 - Inefficient
 - Invading force has poor rapport with citizens
- “The Divine Net”
 - Are/were there really secret agents

- Resounding, “Yes.”
 - Warfare is based on deception
 - Use of double agents
 - Do they need to be expendable?
 - Do double agents need to have trust of other agents?
 - Double agents need trust in both reward and punishment
- Who can use secret agents?
 - Why do you have to be humane to use them?
 - If there is something that needs to be done for the good of all it can be described as humane....
 - Execution is humane?
 - Spy programs are used for malevolent ideology
 - Does the person who uses agents need to be “delicate and subtle”?
 - To get information/truth out of the spy you might
 - Ideas of “sage and wise” and “humane and just” – are these ideas Confucian?
 - Are “delicate and subtle” Taoist?
- Another interesting story
 - Was the beheading of messengers necessary?
 - Were they enemies or just neighbors to start?
 - Is the story Confucian in nature?
 - Is it really a good example of Sun Tzu’s comment?
- Who is hurt by war?

- Whoever loses
 - Any participant really
- Lower/middle class
 - Families
 - Lose the income
 - Chores
 - Constant worrying
- Upper and middle classes
 - Expense of the war
- Is war an opportunity for the lower classes?