

The American Military Experience

The Principles of War



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The Nine Principles of War

(As recognized by the U. S. Army)

Objective

Offensive

Maneuver

Mass

Economy of Force

Unity of Command

Security

Surprise

Simplicity

The Principles of War

(As recognized by the U. S. Army)

Objective

Direct every military operation toward a clearly defined, decisive and attainable objective. The ultimate military purpose of war is the destruction of the enemy's ability to fight and will to fight.

Economy of Force

Unity of Command

Security

Surprise

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The Principles of War

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Objective

Offensive

Seize, retain, and exploit the initiative. Offensive action is the most effective and decisive way to attain a clearly defined common objective. Offensive operations are the means by which a military force seizes and holds the initiative while maintaining freedom of action and achieving decisive results. This is fundamentally true across all levels of war.

Surprise

Simplicity

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Objective

Offensive

Maneuver

Place the enemy in a position of disadvantage through the flexible application of combat power. Maneuver is the movement of forces in relation to the enemy to gain positional advantage. Effective maneuver keeps the enemy off balance and protects the force. It is used to exploit successes, to preserve freedom of action, and to reduce vulnerability. It continually poses new problems for the enemy by rendering his actions ineffective, eventually leading to defeat.

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Objective

Offensive

Maneuver

Mass

Mass the effects of overwhelming combat power at the decisive place and time. Synchronizing all the elements of combat power where they will have decisive effect on an enemy force in a short period of time is to achieve mass. Massing effects, rather than concentrating forces, can enable numerically inferior forces to achieve decisive results, while limiting exposure to enemy fire.

The Principles of War

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Employ all combat power available in the most effective way possible; allocate minimum essential combat power to secondary efforts. Economy of force is the judicious employment and distribution of forces. No part of the force should ever be left without purpose.

Economy of Force

The allocation of available combat power to such tasks as limited attacks, defense, delays, deception, or even retrograde operations is measured in order to achieve mass elsewhere at the decisive point and time on the battlefield.

Simplicity

The Principles of War

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Objective

For every objective, seek unity of command and unity of effort. At all levels of war, employment of military forces in a manner that masses combat power toward a common objective requires unity of command and unity of effort. Unity of command means that all the forces are under one responsible commander.

Unity of Command

It requires a single commander with the requisite authority to direct all forces in pursuit of a unified purpose.

Simplicity

The Principles of War

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Never permit the enemy to acquire unexpected advantage. Security enhances freedom of action by reducing vulnerability to hostile acts, influence, or surprise. Security results from the measures taken by a commander to protect his forces. Knowledge and understanding of enemy strategy, tactics, doctrine, and staff planning improve the detailed planning of adequate security measures.

Security

Surprise

Simplicity

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Objective

Offensive

Strike the enemy at a time or place or in a manner for which he is unprepared. Surprise can decisively shift the balance of combat power. By seeking surprise, forces can achieve success well out of proportion to the effort expended. Surprise can be in tempo, size of force, direction or location of main effort, and timing. Deception can aid the probability of achieving surprise.

Surprise

Simplicity

The Principles of War

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Objective

Offensive

Maneuver

Prepare clear, uncomplicated plans and concise orders to ensure thorough understanding. Everything in war is very simple, but the simple thing is difficult. To the uninitiated, military operations are not difficult. Simplicity contributes to successful operations. Simple plans and clear, concise orders minimize misunderstanding and confusion. Other factors being equal, parsimony is to be preferred.

Simplicity

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Officers in the U.S. Military sometimes use the acronyms

"MOOSE MUSS"

"MOUSE MOSS"

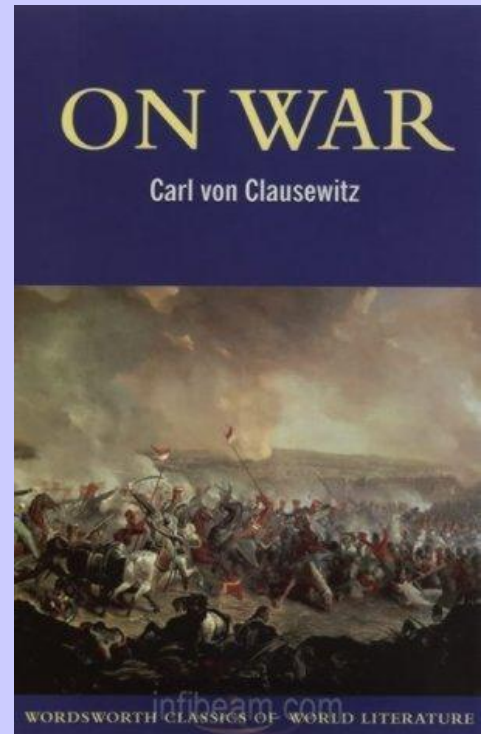
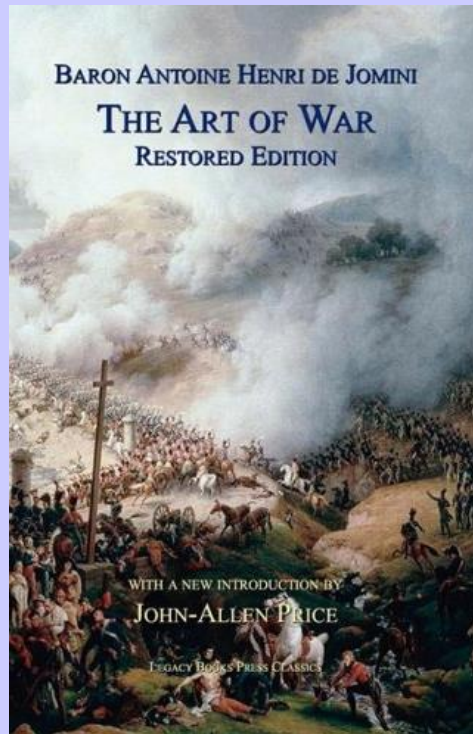
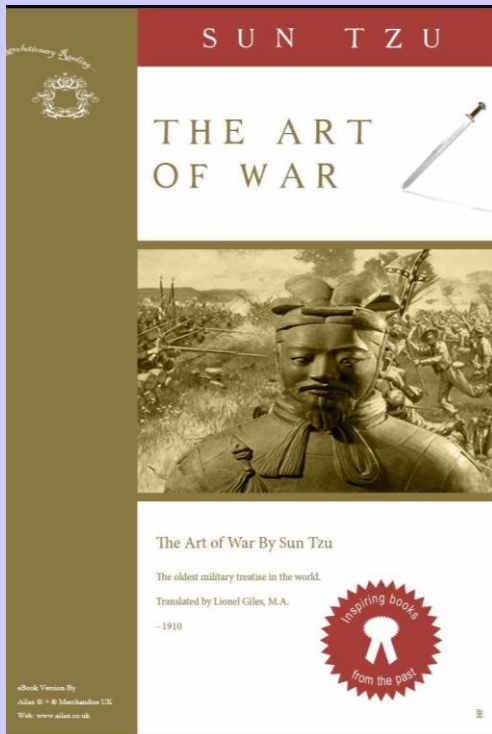
"MOM USE SOS"

"SUMO MOSES"

to remember the first letters of these nine principles.

Just Know The 9 principles –

FORWARD, BACKWARD and SIDEWAYS



Detail assessment and planning

Waging war

Strategic attack

Disposition of the army

Forces

Weaknesses and strengths

Military maneuvers

Variations and adaptability

Movement and development of troops

Terrain

The nine battlegrounds

Attacking with fire

Intelligence and espionage

**Sun
Tzu's
THE
ART
OF
WAR**



Passenger 57 (1992)

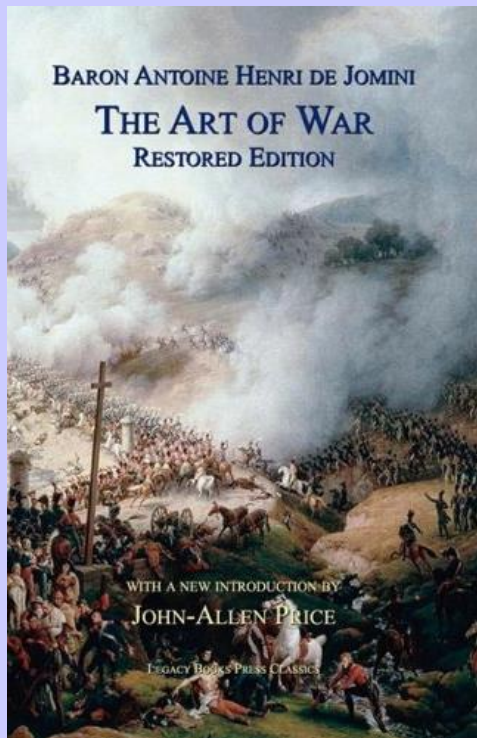


Antoine Henri Jomini

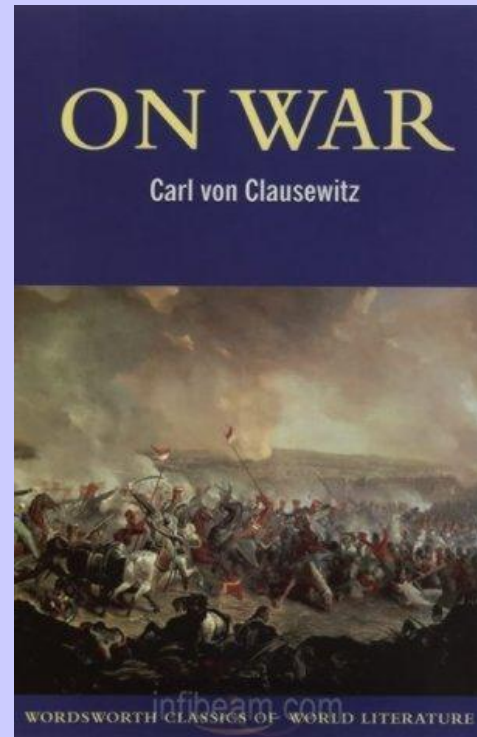
Swiss officer who served as a general in the French and later in the Russian service, and one of the most celebrated writers on the Napoleonic art of war.

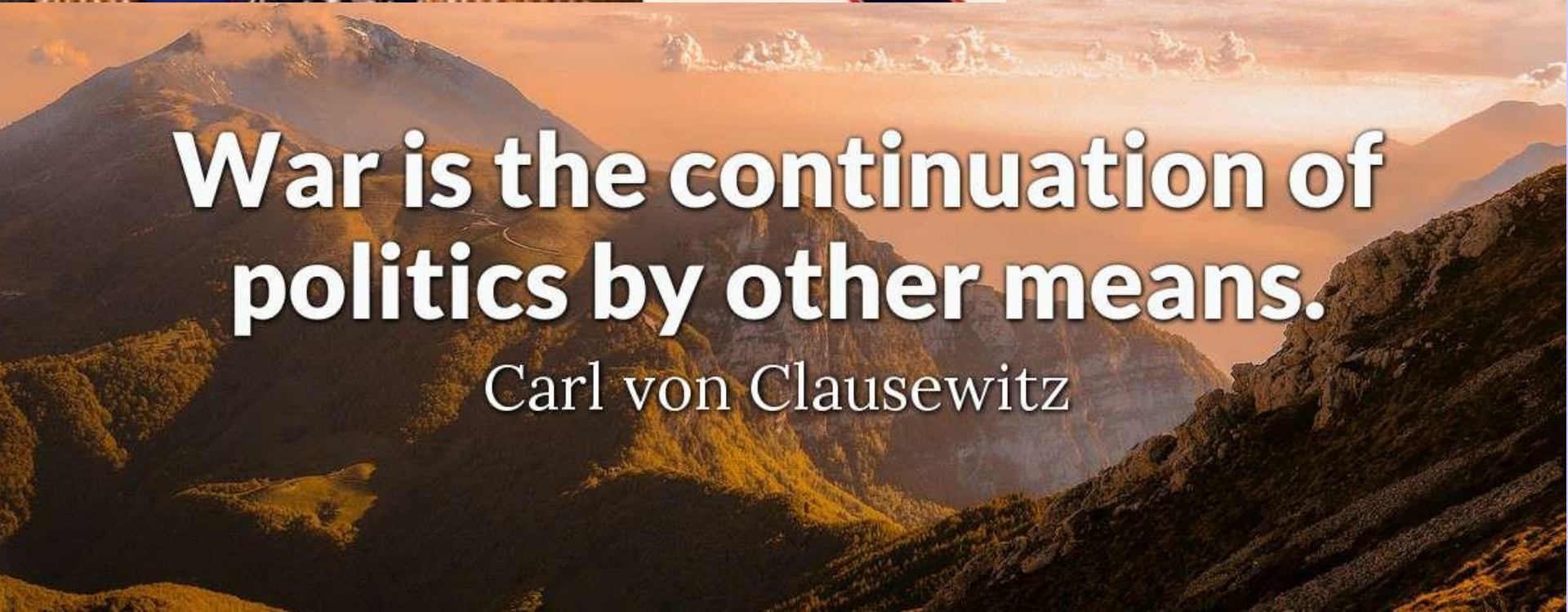
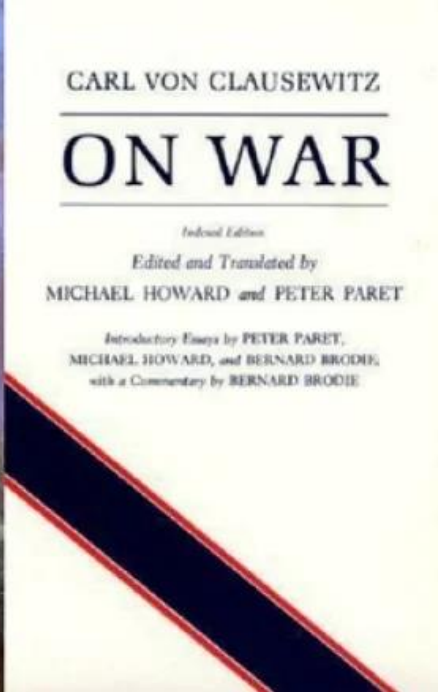
Jomini's ideas were a staple at military academies, the United States Military Academy at West Point being a prominent example; his theories were thought to have affected many officers who later served in the American Civil War.

He may have coined the term logistics in his *Summary of the Art of War* (1838).



the dialectical approach to military analysis
the methods of "critical analysis"
the uses and abuses of historical studies
the nature of the balance-of-power mechanism
the relationship between political objectives and military objectives in war
the asymmetrical relationship between attack and defense
the nature of "military genius"
the "fascinating trinity" of war
philosophical distinctions between "absolute or ideal war," and "real war"
in "real war," the distinctive poles of a) limited war and b) war to "render the enemy helpless"
"war" belongs fundamentally to the social realm, rather than the realms of art or science
"strategy" belongs primarily to the realm of art
"tactics" belongs primarily to the realm of science
the essential unpredictability of war
the "fog of war"
"friction"
strategic and operational "centers of gravity"
the "culminating point of the offensive"
the "culminating point of victory"





**War is the continuation of
politics by other means.**

Carl von Clausewitz