



On the Nature of War

Carl von Clausewitz , John Minford (Translator) , D.C. Lau (Translator)

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Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

On the Nature of War Details

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From Reader Review On the Nature of War for online ebook

Olethros says

-Probablemente, sin superar tras ciento ochenta y dos años.-

Género. Ensayo.

Lo que nos cuenta. Análisis teórico sobre la guerra basado en el pensamiento del autor, su experiencia y su tiempo, desde su propio concepto hasta la generalidad de sus planes operativos, pasando por las fuerzas armadas, el combate y la teoría estratégica. Publicado de manera póstuma, menos de un año después del fallecimiento del autor, con sólo el primer libro, de los ocho que lo componen, revisado por Clausewitz y los siguientes en mayor o menor grado de finalización editorial.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

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Millstone says

Offers a fairly high level overview into what war was 200 years ago rather than posing as any manual of tactics, which as he points out, would have to be a much longer book and which could only draw on the then recent past. As he doesn't say, such a book would now be largely outdated, whereas this is still readable and relevant.

Ana says

While a lot of these ideas still have application today, it's undeniable that war before WWI was a totally different beast.

Joe says

A dense, theoretical read. I expected to learn more from it, but it's very dry and dense.

Nick Carraway says

1) "War is nothing but a duel on an extensive scale. If we would conceive as a unit the countless number of duels which make up a War, we shall do so best by supposing to ourselves two wrestlers. Each strives by physical force to compel the other to submit to his will: each endeavours to throw his adversary, and thus render him incapable of further resistance.

War therefore is an act of violence intended to compel our opponent to fulfil our will."

2) "But War is no pastime; no mere passion for venturing and winning; no work of a free enthusiasm: it is a serious means for a serious object. All that appearance which it wears from the varying hues of fortune, all that it assimilates into itself of the oscillations of passion, of courage, of imagination, of enthusiasm, are only particular properties of this means."

3) "Therefore it is easier to determine, by theoretical rules, the order and conduct of a battle, than the use to be made of the battle itself. Yonder physical weapons clash with each other, and although mind is not wanting therein, matter must have its rights."

4) "We say therefore War belongs not to the province of Arts and Sciences, but to the province of social life. It is a conflict of great interests which is settled by bloodshed, and only in that is it different from others. It would be better, instead of comparing it with any Art, to liken it to a business competition, which is also a conflict of human interests and activities; and it is still more like State policy, which again, on its part, may be looked upon as a kind of business competition on a great scale. Besides, State policy is the womb in which War is developed, in which its outlines lie hidden in a rudimentary state, like the qualities of living creatures in their germs."

Tony says

Content interesting, style wooden. Perhaps it's just a poor translation? This book does contain some disturbing echoes; the horrors of war excite repugnance but this is not to get in the way, and moderation in war is absurd. The philanthropist, we are told, believes that war can be fought minimising the losses to both sides, but in war errors that proceed from a spirit of benevolence are the worst.

Christopher Donaghue says

A dull abridgment, mostly words with little substance. The occasional meaningful quip is made, but for the most part I feel that little good came from the read.

Jon A says

This was painful. Found some gold in there, but after digging, digging, digging... the theoritization of war is obviously not my cup of tea.

Marc says

Very interesting, not only because of the well-known martial art-theory ("war is politics with other means"). Also a great theoretical focus, in the line of the positivist Comte, but clearly much more pragmatic and more cautious. Required reading on historical criticism.

