



## The Art of War: Translation, Essays, and Commentary by the Denma Translation Group

By Sun Tzu

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### The Art of War: Translation, Essays, and Commentary by the Denma Translation Group By Sun Tzu

Conflict is an inevitable part of life, according to this ancient Chinese classic of strategy, but everything necessary to respond to conflict wisely, thoroughly, and victoriously is right before us at all times. The key to skillful action in any situation is in knowing those things that make up the environment and then seeing the patterns they form so that their power becomes available to us. It is not necessary to change the nature of things to find victory. Since, as Sun Tzu teaches, aggression and response in kind can lead only to destruction, we must learn to work with conflict in a more profound and effective way. *The Art of War* shows us how.

*The Art of War* gives us proven strategic skills to apply when we need to take action and overcome obstacles in rapidly changing, chaotic situations. Though ancient in origin, these strategies are accessible because they are based on the ways we already do things. As Sun Tzu shows, rather than getting mired in conflict, we can create momentum and bring about the tipping point to achieve success.

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## The Art of War: Translation, Essays, and Commentary by the Denma Translation Group By Sun Tzu Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #341254 in Books
- Brand: Sun-tzu/ Denma Translation Group (TRN)
- Published on: 2009-06-09
- Released on: 2009-06-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.75" h x .81" w x 4.34" l, .57 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Amazon.com Review

*The Art of War* was written over 2,300 years ago in what is now North China. Yet it still remains a contemporary lesson on how to attain victory without going to battle. Modern-day warriors find its ancient strategies helpful regardless of whether the conflict dwells in the boardroom or the bedroom. Despite numerous references to enemies, generals, and armies, *The Art of War* is about nonaggression. At its core, *The Art of War* offers a sophisticated lesson on "taking whole," meaning staying openhearted and relaxed in order to sidestep a fight--whether you are a field commander, a CEO, or a frustrated mother putting a resistant son to bed. This particular translation comes from the Denma Translation Group, led by scholars Kidder Smith and James Gimian (publisher of *Shambhala Sun* magazine). Because of the text's obscure wording (even the Chinese find the original document cumbersome), the translators have inserted helpful commentary that removes some of the linguistic barriers. --*Gail Hudson*

#### From Publishers Weekly

This striking gift package contains a wealth of materials: a paperback edition of Sun Tzu's classic "Art of War"; 50 two-color cards with a quote from Sun Tzu on one side and a brief commentary on the other; a stand for readers to hold each card as they meditate on its meaning; and a pamphlet describing how to use the cards for personal growth. "Though the 'Art of War' was originally written for the military, it applies to all aspects of our lives," write the editors, who stress the modern relevance of this 2,300-year-old text for learning how to manage conflict without aggression. The quotation cards are particularly helpful for applying Sun Tzu's teachings to broad situations, and for helping readers imagine themselves as "the sage commander." In addition to a full translation of Sun Tzu's classic, the book also offers three essays on its interpretation. This is an ideal gift for those who might be interested in Eastern approaches to conflict resolution.

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#### From Library Journal

The Art of War is a title familiar to many Westerners, at least by name. Tzu is said to have been the patriarch of the Chinese military lineage that collectively created this work approximately 2300 years ago, and since then the text has fascinated casual readers as well as business and military leaders with its unusually clear delineation of strategic thinking. The standard modern translation with commentary is that of Samuel Griffith (Oxford Univ., 1988). The Denma Translation Group, an amalgam of scholars who are also Buddhist practitioners, was formed specifically for the purpose of creating this new translation in a way that faithfully conveys, as best possible, the meaning and flavor of the classical Chinese. By the group's own admission, this makes the text occasionally difficult. The commentary and essays included, however, will help the reader appreciate that this work has endured, not simply as a manual for the conduct of warfare but because of the depth of the principles on which it is based and their applicability to everyday life. Libraries, particularly academic collections, will want to acquire this as a complement to the Griffith translation. Mark Woodhouse, Elmira Coll., NY

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**Kerstin Torres:**

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