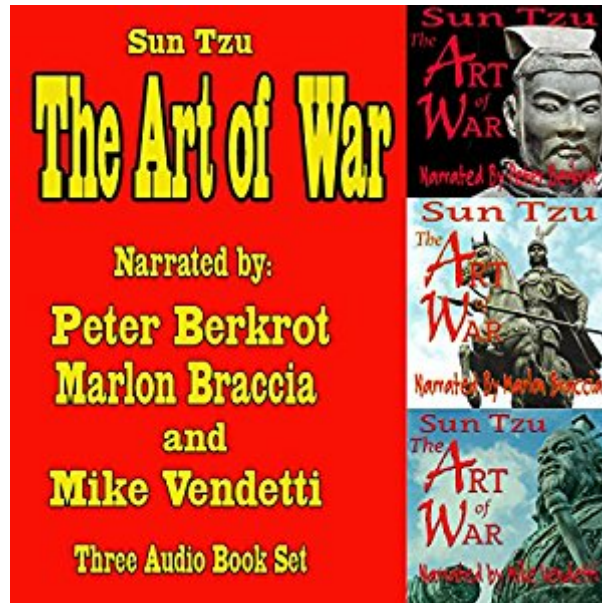


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The Art Of War: Three Complete Audiobook Set



Synopsis

The wisdom of Sun Tzu, narrated by Peter Berkrot, Marlon Braccia, and Mike Vendetti. Thought to have been written over 3000 years ago, this missive has been included as a course of study by the US Marine Corps and military academies. These precepts have destroyed nations and built business empires. An executive, a general, a congressman, a businessperson - or anybody just wanting to get ahead - should listen to this at least once a month. This is a three-audiobook set, with each version the complete audiobook but with a separate narrator. Since The Art of War has become a motivational and self-help text, multiple listenings are encouraged. The listener can choose to listen to Peter Berkrot's tenor, the lovely female voice of Marlon Bracciaa, or Mike Vendetti's soothing baritone.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours and 40 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Listen2aBook.com

Audible.com Release Date: June 12, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B00ZJ460WO

Best Sellers Rank: #124 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Asia #596 in Books > History > Asia > China #674 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Military

Customer Reviews

I got this particular edition of Sun Tzu's Art of War at a strategy course for sales. I already had a copy of it at home, but this edition is so nicely done that I gave my old copy away and kept this one. The introduction of James Clavell is a nice touch. It is amazing to me that this book is not read in high schools or colleges in favor of Machiavelli's work (The Prince or The Art of War.) Sun Tzu's writing is clear and to the point. Unlike the popular Book of Five Rings by Musashi, this book is not metaphorical and poetic; it's downright practical. And it's not hard to read, unlike many classics. If you are doing business in China, this is also a good book to know. I mentioned some of the classic strategies while giving a course in China, and every member of the class had read it, knew it well, and gave me many examples from recent Chinese history where Sun Tzu's strategies were employed. This book is close to their hearts, and will give you insight if you are doing business in

the East. Of course, the most famous anecdote from this book is about gaining the obedience of troops; the emperor, wishing to interview Sun Tzu for the commission of general, asked if Sun Tzu's military principles could be applied to women. Sun Tzu replied yes, the principles worked for women as well as men. Accordingly, Sun Tzu was given the task of organizing the emperor's many concubines into an army. Sun Tzu lined up the concubines and set the two favorites as officers at the head of the columns. He gave them a simple set of orders to march and drill (eyes front, right face, about face). The drums sounded and instead of following the commands, the girls simply giggled and blushed.

Like many business professionals, I've heard lots of people quote *The Art of War* and heard that everyone from Larry Ellison to Michael Ovitz studied it as a guide to competition in business. So I decided I needed to read it. I encountered a few issues, which I suspect others will too, so here's a little help:

1. Which version should I buy?
2. How should I read it?
3. Who can help me make sense of this?
4. Will this really make me a better leader in business?

1. Which version should I buy? As soon as I started to shop for a copy, I was confronted with an overwhelming number of choices. In the end I decided to buy the translation by Thomas Cleary because he has translated other Chinese classics that I've read and Shambhala is a well-known publisher of Eastern texts. I did a fair number of comparisons online and people were very positive about this translation as being perhaps the most accessible for first time readers. I found it easy to read and understand. (My edition is a slightly older "Dragon Edition" from Shambhala, but it is the same translation.) I have also read Griffith's translation from the 1960's and found that edition to be just as good. Cleary's version seems to be intent on highlighting more of the Taoist elements in the *Art of War*; Griffith, in contrast writes primarily about battles and military history. Comparing the two translations side by side it is clear that 80% of the text is probably going to be the same whichever version you buy, but there are real differences between some of the texts. I would have no problem recommending either Cleary or Griffith.

2. How should I read it? The first time I picked this up, I was confused.

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