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10 greatest military strategists

What does a great strategist do? After looking throughout history, this post analyzes 10 strategists to rank them based on the results, focus and tactics used to support the grand strategy. Above all these strategists resist the direct approach to achieving multiple goals. Rating the top 10 strategist results. Far more important than any other factor in qualifying a strategic mind are the results behind the strategic mind. Even more impressive when the strategist faces a force outnumbered, outnumbered and outnumbered. Does the enemy have more men, resources and perks than the attacking strategist doesn't have the luxury of paying? Approximation and adaptability. Based on two parts, a Hart maxim of attacking in the line of least expectation and tactically in the line of least resistance. The second important part is that each new challenge comes a new stratagem. The strategist tackles the challenge with a new strategy or relies on fighting the last war with strategies that worked in the last war. Does the strategist avoid the direct and long-awaited path to success while shifting focus as the uncertain future unfolds? Tactics. Each strategy comes with effective tactics. Does each strategist use an arsenal of tactics that effectively support strategy? 1. Ghengis Khan Genghis Khan conquered more than twice as much as any other man in history. Surprisingly without Ego. Khan refused to let anyone paint his painting. When he died there are no monuments built. Nobody knows where he's buried. He believed that the Law of Eternal Blue Sky ruled over rulers and commoners alike. He introduced a new system based entirely on merit, loyalty and achievement. 2. Hannibal Hannibal could be one of the best strategists of all time. Even more evident is the impact Hannibal had on Rome's military strategy, as Scipio Africanus adopted most of Hannibal's tactics and strategy. From the humility of Rome, to influencing strategy Rome would borrow to defeat it later. Not only does the strategy shine throughout Hannibal's campaigns, but leadership lessons abound. Hannibal was right about his men in every maneuver. It never took long to ask his men to take the risk that he was unwilling to take. Humbly sleeping on the floor with nothing but a blanket galvanized loyalty amount all ranks of your men. While other generals allowed himself to take the comforts of war along the road. Hannibal's approach remained building support among allies and fellow Carthaginians alike. 3. Scipio Africanus Learning from one of the greatest strategic minds, Hannibal, Scipio Africanus managed to defeat Hannibal at his own game. From defeating Carthage, returning to Rome, Scipio brought the war back to Hannibal's house to pull out number one in Rome. Instead of attacking Hannibal directly on Roman soil, Scipio did the unexpected and went to Africa to get involved with Hannibal. Scipio took the Fabian strategy of disassociation to bleed Hannibal's numbers and used Hannibal's strengths against 4. John Boyd Boyd is a rare man. Boyd not only went from being undefeated in air combat, but also fought the Pentagon Careerist and contributed to the entire approach to the war. Overcome and overcome, Boyd managed to outperform the generals and the entire Pentagon swelling system. Also behind his student, Burton overthrew the bloated Army project The Bradley. He overseared Army at each stage to gain changes to The Bradley's design. Save countless lives of the military in the process. He would eventually develop a theory on human conflict and the model to win in any conflict with the OODA Loop. 5. Napoleon One of the greatest military strategists in history highlights Napoleon's revolutions in military supply, tactics and war logistics planning. Napoleon's fascination with classical wars and Roman history began an education that would become not only a military genius, but as his own hero Julius Caesar, he was one of the greatest soldier-statesmans of all time as Roberts described it. 6. Desert Fox Erwin Rommel Outmatched in Africa against the British, Rommel managed to humiliate the British despite having fewer tanks, fewer men. Rommel understood the strategic importance of mobility and speed as the deciding factor for attacking in the line of least expectation. Rommel led from the front and mobilisation faster than the British hoped to give Rommel the advantage despite the numerical disadvantage. 7. Robert Moses New York Sun adds the impact of Moses, in the entirety of his reign as 'Master Builder', built 13 bridges, 416 miles of avenue, 658 playgrounds and 150,000 units of housing, spending \$150 billion on today's dollars. He held such high power, from the mid-1920s to 1968, without holding any elected office and yet held 12 public office simultaneously. Moses, as described by Ryan Holiday, took power because he understood the complexities of his industry. I had studied more, read more, knew more than anyone. Based on this understanding he understood that he used Parks as the least resistance path to get his projects built. Parks are the only project that the public does not fight. Along the lines of less expectation, Moses understood that it is easier to keep a project moving forward than it is to start a new project. From there, tactics come into the picture to project the cost of a project by a wide margin. Once the project is started, the true costs will be uncovered, but it is too late the project must continue. 8. The March to the Sea by William Tecumseh Sherman Sherman Sherman remains a master class in strategy for various reasons. The focus remained on getting the South to abandon the war. Paralyzing the enemy from behind. Your strategies to support the great are numerous. A Sherman cut off the lines of communication, lived off the land for greater mobility. Two, I had more strategic goals, moving from Atlanta the next move could have been any southern city. This put his enemies on the horns of Based on the enemy movement to stop Sherman in a city meant he could attack a different city with less resistance. This goes back to the main maxims of strategy: attacking in the line of least resistance. Or put another way, avoid competition. He did not directly attack the South leaving for Richmond. He attacked from the base of southern power, the hearts and minds of southerners. 9. John D. Rockefeller From the son of a street vendor to the richest man in the world. Rockefeller emphasizes modern strategy. The oil business began with speculators betting on the richest from the nearby oil well. Rockefeller chose a different path. Its strategic goal involved controlling the inefficiencies of the oil market and getting oil prices under control. His first strategy of introducing movement involved avoiding competitors directly. Instead of fighting for market share with price wars, Rockefeller used a number of different approaches. One of them, he hated wasting throwing away what was seen as a refinement product. Developed markets for lubricants, Karoseen, common fat, Vaseline and other useful products to generate revenue outside were other competitors launched. Second, move to control more of the distribution by buying all barrels of oil, limiting the number of trains, buying all equipment and equipment suppliers and refusing to sell spare parts to competitors. Third, using scale to increase efficiency to reduce prices squeeze competitors. And buy competitors once these operators couldn't compete against it. From the target, focus and tactics used, Rockefeller, reveals his brilliant and strategic mind to control 90% of the oil market and become one of the richest Americans in history. 10. Jeff Bezos From the beach strategy, Bezos has mastered all the categories in which Amazon has entered. Beachhead's strategy of starting on books begins Bezo's attempt to attack from the lines of least resistance. If Amazon started in all categories from day one, it would be fighting competitors from all sides. Instead, Bezo chose books and, as Amazon dominated the books, added category after category in the lowest margin business that survives without profits for decades to bleed dry competitors and increase the number of Prime subscribers. Prime has been the Ace in Amazon's strategy as Prime members return to Amazon to spend a larger and larger share of the portfolio in every new category amazon enters. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the lives of a multitude of people. And in recent months, the world has suffered a series of crisis episodes. In this series we use the Step Change creativity tool to show how some of the greatest strategists history could apply its strategies to the current crisis. The strategist for the day is the great Chinese general, Sun Tzu. He was a Chinese general, military strategist and philosopher. He was highly regarded for his sophisticated approach to war. Instead of focusing on the Aspect of the war, Sun Tzu understood that what he needed was a more scientific approach to war. He reviewed past battles, took over logistics, and studied psychology of his soldiers and enemies. His war book was aptly named The Art of War. He approached war as an art form, and his teachings are the basis for many general and successful business leader strategies. The book is widely influential in military strategy. Next day's great strategist: Sun Tzu His greatest triumph: United the kidnapped Chinese tribes and 5th-century BC fighters in a cohesive empire that dominated the world for centuries. As a way to look deeper into the Sun Tzu psyche, we took the time to book a virtual interview with Sun Tzu himself. Here is a brief (and imaginary) interview between historian Chris Bishop and the indomitable General Sun Tzu. Chris Bishop (CB): For starters, what do you see as your greatest achievement? Sun Tzu (ST): I feel like uniting china's kidnapped warring tribes and modeling them on a cohesive Chinese empire that I believe will go on to dominate world strategy for centuries. CB: What was your biggest challenge to achieve? ST: Deal with the political and military turmoil that has existed throughout China for many years. CB: Can you give us a brief overview of your career? ST: I have had a varied career having spent time in the army ascending to the rank of general. Then I used my experience to write a book called the Art of War. This book has been widely influential in the military strategy of eastern society, and I believe it will eventually be used by all nations in conducting wars. Not only have I drawn on my own experience of wars, but I have used strategies extracted throughout history. CB: Can you give us some examples of the strategies out there in the book? ST: Yes, of course: The following are four key strategies: Learn deep insights into your enemy before you engage in battle. Understand the logistics of battle, not just fighting. Supply routes that should support a campaign are critical. Build knowledge of previous meetings. In other words, meet your enemy. Remember to keep your friends close and your enemies closer. Break enemy morale to be ruthless. You can't master half an enemy. There are many other strategies described in the book. I think the book will be considered by future generations as the way to manage and win battles. CB: Can you give us an example of where you used a particular strategy? ST: Before hiring me as a general, the King of Wu tested my skills by commanding me to train a harem of 180 concubines on soldiers. I divided them into two companies, appointing the two most favored by the king as commanders of the company. I ordered the concubines to face the right, and they were mocked. I stated that the general is in charge of ensuring that the soldiers followed orders. I repeated the order, and they were still mocked. In response, I ordered his execution. Execution. the king's protests, I replied. If the general's soldiers understood their commands but did not obey, it was the officers' fault. Once a general was appointed, it was his duty to carry out his mission, even if the king protested. After the deaths of the two concubines, I chose new officers to replace them. Then, both companies, now well aware of the costs of greater frivolity, performed their maneuvers without so. CB: Do you have last words of wisdom? ST: I'll leave you with two powerful quotes: What you know when you can fight and when you can't be victorious. Each battle is decided before it begins. Focus your efforts on pre-emphasizing your enemy's next move. Sun Tzu was known for his decisiveness and skill in implementing his strategies. And if he lived through the COVID-19 crisis, there is no doubt that he would have handled it well with his brand strategies. How would Sun Tzu manage the COVID-19 crisis? Sun Tzu lived in an era of great riots and war. He saw thousands of people die on the battlefield and experienced the suffering of ordinary people because of the effects of war. Sun Tzu would have been a great strategist during the COVID-19 crisis. He knew how to think clearly in times of crisis. Key strategy #1. You did your research on your enemies meet your enemy as you know yourself, and you can fight a hundred battles without disaster. As a great strategist, he did his research. He never committed his army to any action unless he knew the weaknesses of his enemy. Once the battle began, he knew how to win. During current difficult times, the greatest enemy is uncertainty. Economies are struggling and the future is undecided. The lesson? If your organization is to survive, you need to investigate new ways to gain a competitive advantage. Key strategy #2. He approached the war in all its facets Move quickly like the wind and formed closely like wood. Attack like Fire and stand still like the Mountain. Sun Tzu took a very comprehensive and sophisticated approach to the war. He knew it wasn't just about the force of guns. He also applied a logistical and psychological approach to war. He made sure his men were well equipped and studied the behavior of enemy generals. The lesson is that we need to address our crisis preparations with as much foresight and meticulousness as Sun Tzu. Key strategy #3. He learned from past battles If you know the enemy and know himself, you don't need to fear the outcome of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory won you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle. Sun Tzu did not become a renowned general to be neglected. He was meticulous throughout his planning. Learned from battles He collected all the information from old battles, no matter what the outcome. If you want to be prepared for the COVID-19 crisis, use your mistakes as learning opportunities. Sun Tzu was one of the military service majors in history. He prepared his army for war in all its facets. The lesson here is to plan down to the last detail. There's no rehearsal for you. They fit us well. We can all remove a feather from his cap and prepare ourselves during these times of uncertainty. Featured image credit: Pinterest Pinterest

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