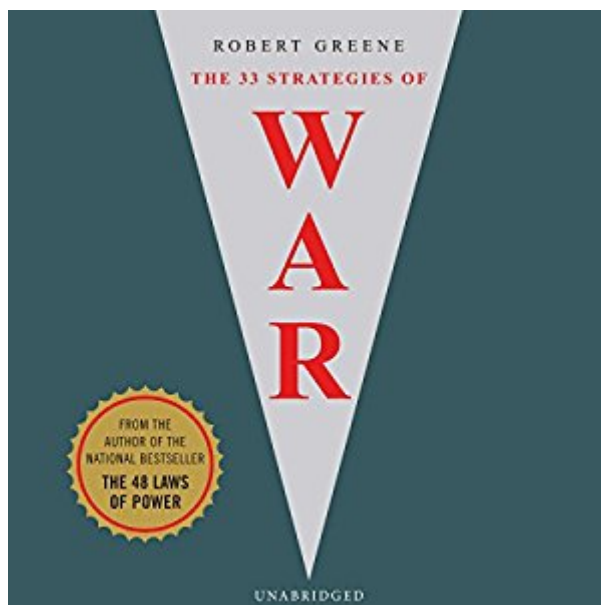


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33 Strategies Of War



Synopsis

33 Strategies of War is a comprehensive guide to the subtle social game of everyday life, informed by the most ingenious and effective military principles in war. It's the I-Ching of conflict, the contemporary companion to Sun Tzu's The Art of War, and is abundantly illustrated with examples from history, including the folly and genius of everyone from Napoleon to Margaret Thatcher, Hannibal to Ulysses S. Grant, movie moguls to samurai swordsmen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To date I've read everything Robert Greene has in print and, much to my surprise, this turned out to be the most useful volume of all. Greene's other books were immensely helpful for clearing my head of cobwebs since, along with everyone else, I'm forced to negotiate our brave new world of cutthroat tactics and social Darwinists, while trying to keep a roof over my head. Without going into detail, let me simply say The 33 Strategies of War taught me exactly what I needed to know in order to adequately discourage the bullying I have had to endure at work for the past three years. Until I can find another job -- not all wars are winnable -- I can now keep this workplace vampire's demeaning behaviors in check. I recommend all of Greene's books, but this one may well be the best investment of the lot.

In 30 minutes of reading- have learned many of my weaknesses and things I was doing very, very wrong - need to erase my public persona's and start over. As good or better than Sun Tzu.

I think that you must strive to get along with everyone around you, but this is a good book for the business owners out there because if you own a business your competition wants you to go out of business that is the truth so you must be ready, but ideally DO NOT treat other businesses as your enemies!

Though I do not buy into the book's opening premise that life is essentially a zero-sum, win-lose affair that puts us into perpetual conflict with each other, there is much to be learned from this extensive work on how human conflict in general and wars in particular are fought and won. It basically lays out thirty three very concrete strategies to deploy when being in a conflict, each with a direct introduction on how what it is about, when and how to deploy it, and a historical example of it being used successfully. For me the historical examples alone are worth the price of the book, which I acquired in audio version and whose narration is sure to keep you entertained when driving, if nothing else. These elaborate examples are actually the backbone of the book, for without them the principles would have remained abstract, their applicability hard to see. The reader should be mindful though, that this is more the work of a scholar than a business writer or self-help guru, and the author is more intent on providing deep understanding on the science of war than practical to-dos, which the reader is left to derive for him/herself based his own understanding of the principles and individual circumstances. Also, as the book's historical examples attest, the strategies of war are value neutral. There is no distinction between a just war and an unjust one, and the strategies work just as well for people I would consider heroes (i.e. Gandhi, George Marshall, FDR) as well as mass murderers and self-serving opportunists of any kind. Since this science of war is already "out there", and unscrupulous, conflictive individuals would have no qualms about using it, the strategies laid out here should help us guard against such people. For the audio version of the book, it would have helped if the sections of each chapter (Keys to Warfare, Understand, Reversal, etc.) were explained beforehand, as their intent is not clear to the listener at first, and overrepetition of some phrases and expressions such as "the height of strategic wisdom", "the biggest ... in ... history" should be avoided so as not to wear out the listener's patience, but other than that the narrator's pitch and pace were excellent and the abridgement did not seem to leave any essential elements out.

While the Art of Seduction and The 48 Laws of Power are great, The 33 Strategies of War brings you into the common sense of the realities of life. If you are to get anything out of this work, it is the fact that we are frequently facing unpleasant situations we choose to ignore and that an attitude of

conflict resolution, no not necessarily pleasant or fair, is a must for survival in this world. I'd like to think we can live in peace, that we can resolve our differences in a civil way, that things and circumstances are fair and favorable most of the time, but this scenario is by far not the scenario in which most of us live our lives. This book brings one a little more awareness of what is going on in the world and why we struggle so much in the face of the only constant which is change, as we fail many times to adapt clinging to a preconceived notion of reality from whatever tradition this may come from (religion, customs, culture, etc.) This and other strategies are portrayed in the book. I give it four stars, because there is no magical solution for any worldview or successful approach to a problem. Finally, this book made me reaffirm my realization that no book is the solution to any problem. As your person, your life, your circumstances will be unique and never identical, the only solution to problems is living through them by facing them using your own wits and your own experience.

This book is excellent! It was my first book written by Robert Greene. I wanted to write a book myself on the same topics. But after reading this informative and wonderfully organized piece, I asked myself 'Why?' After reading how each strategy worked for those in past battles, history plus use, there was nothing left to say but 'perfect'. Each step of the way, the information not found in general history class comes alive. The information becomes useful. What is hidden from view becomes alive in the present. I keep this and this author's other books well within my reach. I realize once reading, man will always be man. What does one choose to become with what he has been given. Thank you.

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