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When Sun-tzu Met Clausewitz: The OODA Loop And The Invasion Of Iraq



Synopsis

John Boyd was a fighter pilot in the Korean War, an instructor at the US Air Force Fighter Weapons School, and arguably America's greatest military thinker of the 20th Century. His concept of the OODA Loop helped guide the US military during two wars against Saddam Hussein's Iraq. This 4000-word 'long essay' was originally prepared for the War in the Modern World program at King's College London by Daniel Ford, an American journalist and historian. Revised December 2014 to incorporate a chapter from his larger study of John Boyd's thinking, published as A Vision So Noble.

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Customer Reviews

I've read Boyd, Von Clausewitz and even Sun Tzu, Michael Porter and D'Aveni... I thought I was alone in embracing and merging their philosophies... Especially the element of mastering tempo in engagement. This essay makes it very clear that my grasp was firm and the ideas are quite sound... Thank you for this...

Despite being one of the most seminal military thinkers of the 20th Century, or maybe because of it,

John Boyd never rose above colonel in the US Air Force. But his ideas profoundly influenced military science and military action in the 20th and 21st centuries. One of his key concepts was the OODA (Observation, Orientation, Decision, Action) loop and how it could be used to completely unhinge the opposition. It was used with great success by the Americans and the allies in both Gulf Wars. This is an expanded essay by a military historian and expert on Boyd which explains the basis of Boyd's theories and how they have been applied.

A quick guide to how John Boyd created the OODA Loop and how it has become conventional wisdom for Military strategist today.

Excellent

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