



## **The Art of War**

*Sun Tzu (554 BCE - 496 BCE), translated by Lionel Giles (1875 - 1958)*

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Read by:	Phil Chenevert (version 1)	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
	Moira Fogarty (version 2)	Catalog:	DB-1006
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*The Art of War* by Chinese general Sun Tzu is considered by many to be the single best book ever written on the subject of war. Studied by Asians for centuries, the work came to the general attention of the west only when translated into French in 1792 and then into English in 1905. It has since become a required handbook for those engaged in combat as well as other adversarial encounters; businessmen, lawyers, politicians, and even athletes have availed themselves of Sun Tzu's genius.

Sun Tzu believed war to be a necessary evil that should be avoided, and, when unavoidable, prosecuted to a quick end. He saw victory and defeat as fundamentally psychological states, and thus puts psychology and intelligence tactics above the use of force and material and physical dominance. His ideal general is as much a Taoist master as a battle-tested warrior. His writings on the knowledge of one's enemy, the true nature of strategy and tactics, and the primacy of pre-battle positioning, enlightened the western mind and became bedside reading for figures like Generals MacArthur and Schwarzkopf. In thirteen short chapters *The Art of War* delivers all the strategic insight and wisdom needed for a lifetime of engagement in public affairs.

**Sun Tzu** (554 BCE - 496 BCE) was a Chinese general, strategist and philosopher who figures significantly in Chinese culture and history both as the author of *The Art of War* and as a legendary leader. Born Sun Wu in 544 BC, he became a military leader and minister to King Helü of Wu in 512 BC whose activities are recorded in the Records of the Grand Historian. His masterpiece on the philosophy of war and winning is thought to be based on the theories used in his battlefield successes, and he became known by the honorific Sun Tzu thereafter. Scholars have questioned both the identity of the author of *The Art of War* and when it was written, based on stylistic and historical inconsistencies. The issue is compounded by references to the general's descendant Sun Bin, also author of a military treatise, as Sun Tzu. Some think it is likely that the work originated with Sun Tzu and was emended with commentary and clarifications by other theorists over time.