

# WAR

## *Destruction and Violence*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 5669 Speed is the essence of war.  
Sun Tzu (fl. c. B.C. 500)
- 5670 War - the trade of barbarians, and the art of bringing the  
greatest physical force to bear on a single point.  
Napoleon (1769-1821)
- 5671 War - An act of violence whose object is to constrain the  
enemy, to accomplish our will.  
Carl von Clausewitz (1780-1831)
- 5672 The essence of war is violence.  
Macaulay (1800-1859)
- 5673 War is the science of destruction.  
John Abbott (1805-1877)
- 5674 War is a series of catastrophes which result in victory.  
Sarah Cleghorn (1876-1959)
- 5675 The essence of war is fire, famine, and pestilence.  
They contribute to its outbreak; they are among its  
weapons; they become its consequences.  
Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 5676 An ancient strategist has said:  
I dare not take the offensive but I take the defensive;  
I dare not advance an inch but I retreat a foot.  
This means:  
To march without formation,  
To stretch one's arm without showing it,  
To confront enemies without seeming to meet them,  
To hold weapons without seeming to have them.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 5677 Military tactics are like unto water; for water in its  
natural course runs away from high places and hastens  
downwards. So in war, the way is to avoid what is strong  
and to strike what is weak. Like water, taking the line of  
least resistance.  
Sun Tzu (fl. c. B.C. 500)

- 5678 War leads to peace.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 5679 In war events of importance are the result of trivial causes.  
Julius Caesar (B.C. 102-44)
- 5680 War has been prescribed for you and that displeases you,  
it may be you dislike something whilst it is good for you;  
and it may be that you love something that is bad for you,  
because God knows it, and you know it not.  
Koran (c. 651 A.D.)
- 5681 In peace the sons bury their fathers  
and in war the fathers bury their sons.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 5682 There's but a twinkling of a star  
Between a man of peace and war.  
Samuel Butler (1612-1680)
- 5683 War its thousands slays,  
Peace its ten thousands.  
Porteus (1731-1808)
- 5684 There are only two forces in the world, the sword and the spirit. In the long run the sword will always be conquered by the spirit.  
Napoleon (1769-1821)
- 5685 Defense is the stronger form with the negative object,  
and attack the weaker form with the positive object.  
Carl von Clausewitz (1780-1831)
- 5686 A war for a great principle ennobles a nation. A war for commercial supremacy, upon some shallow pretext, is despicable, and more than aught else demonstrates to what immeasurable depths of baseness men and nations can descend.  
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 5687 There was only one virtue, pugnacity;  
only one vice, pacifism.  
That is an essential condition of war.  
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 5688 If a sufficient number of people who wanted to stop war really did gather together, they would first of all begin by making war upon those who disagreed with them. And it is still more certain that they would make war on people who also want to stop wars but in another way.  
Gurdjieff (1873-1949)

5689 An infallible method of conciliating a tiger  
is to allow oneself to be devoured.

Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967)

### 3. INSIGHT

5690 At the outset, a righteous cause, as well as a proper  
method for conducting the war, is essential for military  
success.

I Ching (B.C. 1150?)

5691 Men grow tired of sleep, love, singing and dancing  
sooner than of war.

Homer (c. B.C. 700)

5692 There is no greater misfortune  
than underestimating the enemy.  
If I underestimate the enemy  
I am in danger of losing my treasure.  
Where two armies confront each other in battle  
the conqueror will be he who wins with a heavy heart.

Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

5693 The art of war is of vital importance to the State. It is a  
matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to  
ruin. Hence it is a subject of inquiry which can on no  
account be neglected.

Sun Tzu (fl. c. B.C. 500)

5694 The God of War hates those who hesitate.

Euripides (B.C. 480-406)

5695 Endless money forms the sinews of war.

Cicero (B.C. 106-43)

5696 It is always easy to begin a war, but very difficult to  
stop one, since its beginning and end are not under the  
control of the same man. Anyone, even a coward, can  
commence a war, but it can be brought to an end only with  
the consent of the victors.

Sallust (B.C. 86-34)

5697 To those to whom war is necessary it is just;  
and a resort to arms is righteous in those to whom no means  
of assistance remain except by arms.

Livy (B.C. 59-17 A.D.)

5698 The fortunes of war are always doubtful.

Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

- 5699 For a war to be just three conditions are necessary -  
public authority, just cause, right motive.  
Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)
- 5700 We fight to great disadvantage when we fight with those  
who have nothing to lose.  
Francesco Guicciardini (1483-1540)
- 5701 Force and fraud are in war the two cardinal virtues.  
Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
- 5702 Most sorts of diversion, in men, children and other animals,  
are an imitation of fighting.  
Swift (1667-1745)
- 5703 The Way of strategy is the Way of nature. When you  
appreciate the power of nature, knowing the rhythm of  
any situation, you will be able to hit the enemy naturally  
and strike naturally.  
Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645)
- 5704 In every heart  
Are sown the sparks that kindle fiery war.  
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 5705 Force, that is to say, physical force (for no moral force  
exists apart from the conception of a state and law), is the  
means; to impose our will upon the enemy is the object. To  
achieve this object with certainty we must disarm the enemy,  
and this disarming is by definition the proper aim of  
military action.  
Carl von Clausewitz (1780-1831)
- 5706 It is an irrepressible conflict between opposing and  
enduring forces.  
William Henry Seward (1801-1872)
- 5707 When wars do come, they fall upon the many,  
the producing class, who are the sufferers.  
Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885)
- 5708 Ideas are the great warriors of the world,  
and a war that has no idea behind it, is simply a brutality.  
James Garfield (1831-1881)
- 5709 Force is never more operative than when it is known to  
exist but is not brandished.  
Alfred Thayer Mahan (1840-1914)

- 5710 War is much too important a matter to be left to the generals.  
Georges Clemenceau (1841-1929)
- 5711 As long as war is regarded as wicked it will always have its fascinations. When it is looked upon as vulgar, then it will cease to be popular.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 5712 The might of the community. Yet, it too, is nothing else than violence...it is the communal, not individual, violence that has its way.  
Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)
- 5713 There is no such thing as an inevitable war. If war comes it will be from a failure of human wisdom.  
Andrew Bonar Law (1858-1923)
- 5714 The increase of armaments that is intended in each nation to produce consciousness of strength, and a sense of security, does not produce these effects. On the contrary, it produces a consciousness of the strength of other nations and a sense of fear. Fear begets suspicion and distrust and evil imaginings of all sorts.  
Edward Grey (1862-1933)
- 5715 The sinews of war are five - men, money, materials, maintenance (food) and morale.  
Bernard Baruch (1870-1965)
- 5716 To destroy is still the strongest instinct in our nature.  
Max Beerbohm (1872-1956)
- 5717 In war, when a commander becomes so bereft of reason and perspective that he fails to understand the dependence of arms on Divine guidance, he no longer deserves victory.  
Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)
- 5718 Wars are caused by undefended wealth.  
Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)
- 5719 Armament is an important factor in war, but not the decisive factor...Man, not material, forms the decisive factor.  
Mao Tse-tung (1893-1976)
- 5720 Wars occur because people prepare for conflict, rather than for peace.  
Trygve Lie (1896-1968)

- 5721 Violence is essentially wordless, and it can begin only where thought and rational communication have broken down.  
Thomas Merton (1915-1968) 6 of 13

#### 4. POSITIVE

- 5722 The general who advances without coveting fame and retreats without fearing disgrace, whose only thought is to protect his country and do good service for his sovereign, is the jewel of the kingdom.  
Sun Tzu (fl. c. B.C. 500)
- 5723 It is not the object of war to annihilate those who have given provocation for it, but to cause them to mend their ways; not to ruin the innocent and guilty alike, but to save both.  
Polybius (B.C. 203?-120)
- 5724 You need only a show of war to have peace.  
Livy (B.C. 59-17 A.D.)
- 5725 Even war is better than a wretched peace.  
Tacitus (55-117 A.D.)
- 5726 The arms are fair,  
When the intent of bearing them is just.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 5727 The life of states is like that of men.  
The latter have the right of killing in self-defense;  
the former to make wars for their own preservation.  
Montesquieu (1689-1755)
- 5728 War kills men, and men deplore the loss; but war also crushes bad principles and tyrants, and so saves societies.  
Colton (1780-1832)
- 5729 It is well that war is so terrible-  
we would grow too fond of it.  
Robert E. Lee (1807-1870)
- 5730 Wars, like thunder-storms, are often necessary to purify the stagnant atmosphere. War is not a demon, without remorse or reward. It restores the brotherhood in letters of fire...It is the hurricane that brings the elemental equilibrium, the concord of Power and Wisdom.  
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 5731 So far war has been the only force that can discipline a whole community, and until an equivalent discipline is organized, I believe that war must have its way.  
William James (1842-1910)

5732 From fear in every guise,  
From sloth, from love of self,  
By war's great sacrifice  
The world redeems itself.

John Davidson (1857-1909)

5733 Blood is a cleansing and sanctifying thing, and the nation  
that regards it as the final horror has lost its manhood...  
There are many things more horrible than bloodshed, and  
slavery is one of them!

Padraic Pearse (1879-1916)

5734 The thing constantly overlooked by those hopefuls who talk  
about abolishing war is that it is by no means an evidence  
of the decay but rather a proof of health and vigor.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)

5735 It simply is not true that war never settles anything.

Felix Frankfurter (1882-1965)

## 5. NEGATIVE

5736 Wherever armies are stationed, briars and thorns grow.  
Great wars are always followed by famines.

Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

5737 When the army engages in protracted campaigns the resources  
of the state will not suffice...For there has never been a  
protracted war from which a country has benefited.

Sun Tzu (fl. c. B.C. 500)

5738 Nothing good ever comes of violence.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

5739 Gentleness succeeds better than violence.

La Fontaine (1621-1695)

5740 All the talk of history is of nothing almost but fighting  
and killing, and the honor and renown which are bestowed  
on conquerors, who, for the most part, are mere butchers  
of mankind, mislead growing youth, who, by these means,  
come to think slaughter the most laudable business of  
mankind, and the most heroic of virtues.

John Locke (1632-1704)

5741 War! that mad game the world so loves to play.

Swift (1667-1745)

- 5742 War is the greatest of all crimes; and yet there is no aggressor who does not color his crime with the pretext of justice.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 5743 War is an instrument entirely inefficient toward redressing wrong; and multiplies, instead of indemnifying losses.  
Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)
- 5744 Preparation for war is a constant stimulus to suspicion and ill will.  
James Monroe (1758-1831)
- 5745 War is nothing less than a temporary repeal of the principles of virtue. It is a system out of which almost all the virtues are excluded, and in which nearly all the vices are included.  
Robert Hall (1764-1831)
- 5746 Nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won.  
Wellington (1769-1852)
- 5747 If war has its chivalry and its pageantry, it has also its hideousness and its demoniac woe. Bullets respect not beauty. They tear out the eye, and shatter the jaw, and rend the cheek.  
John Abbott (1805-1877)
- 5748 No protracted war can fail to endanger the freedom of a democratic country.  
Alexis De Tocqueville (1805-1859)
- 5749 The ballot is stronger than the bullet.  
Lincoln (1809-1865)
- 5750 War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it.  
William T. Sherman (1820-1891)
- 5751 There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but boys, it is all hell.  
William T. Sherman (1820-1891)
- 5752 The carnage and suffering which war entails are terrible to contemplate, and constitute an irresistible argument in favor of arbitration.  
Lubbock (1834-1913)
- 5753 Every government has as much of a duty to avoid war as a ship's captain has to avoid a shipwreck.  
Guy de Maupassant (1850-1893)

5754 War I abhor, and yet how sweet  
The sound along the marching street  
Of drum and fife, and I forget  
Wet eyes of widows, and forget  
Broken old mothers, and the whole  
Dark butchery without a soul.

Le Gallienne (1866-1947)

5755 What difference does it make to the dead...whether the mad  
destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or  
the holy name of liberty or democracy?

Gandhi (1869-1948)

5756 War is only a cowardly escape from the problems of peace.

Thomas Mann (1875-1955)

5757 I know war as few other men now living know it, and nothing  
to me is more revolting. I have long advocated its complete  
abolition, as its very destructiveness on both friend and  
foe has rendered it useless as a method of settling  
international disputes.

Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)

5758 A great war leaves the country with three armies-  
an army of cripples, an army of mourners, and  
an army of thieves.

German Proverb

## 6. ADVICE

5759 It is only necessary to make war with five things:  
with the maladies of the body,  
with the ignorances of the mind,  
with the passions of the body,  
with the seditions of the city,  
with the discords of families.

Pythagoras (B.C. 582-507)

5760 All warfare is based on deception. Therefore, when capable,  
feign incapacity; when active, inactivity. When near, make  
it appear that you are far away; when far way, that you are  
near. Offer the enemy a bait to lure him; feign disorder  
and strike him. When he concentrates, prepare against him;  
where he is strong, avoid him. Anger his general and  
confuse him. Pretend inferiority and encourage his  
arrogance. Keep him under a strain and wear him down. When  
he is united, divide him. Attack where he is unprepared;  
sally out when he does not expect you. These are the  
strategist's keys to victory. It is not possible to discuss  
them beforehand.

Sun Tzu (fl. c. B.C. 500)

- 5761 To fight and conquer in all your battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting.  
Sun Tzu (fl. c. B.C. 500)
- 5762 Beware lest in your anxiety to avoid war you obtain a master.  
Demosthenes (B.C. 384-322)
- 5763 Wars are to be undertaken in order that it may be possible to live in peace without molestation.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 5764 Before all else, be armed.  
Machiavelli (1469-1527)
- 5765 Give the enemy not only a road for flight, but also a means of defending it.  
Rabelais (1490-1553)
- 5766 Study strategy over the years and achieve the spirit of the warrior. Today is victory over yourself of yesterday; tomorrow is your victory over lesser men.  
Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645)
- 5767 To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.  
George Washington (1732-1799)
- 5768 There are strings in the human heart that had better not be vibrated.  
Charles Dickens (1812-1870)
- 5769 The essence of war is violence.  
Moderation in war is imbecility.  
John A. Fisher (1841-1920)
- 5770 Once we have a war there is only one thing to do. It must be won. For defeat brings worse things than any that can ever happen in war.  
Ernest Hemingway (1898-1961)

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 5771 Our business in the field of fight  
Is not to question, but to prove our might.  
Homer (c. B.C. 700)

- 5772 And by prudent flight and cunning save  
A life, which valour could not, from the grave.  
A better shield I can soon regain;  
But who can get another life again?  
Archilochus (c. B.C. 648)
- 5773 When discord dreadful bursts her brazen bars,  
And shatters locks to thunder forth her wars.  
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 5774 Sound trumpets! let our bloody colours wave!  
And either victory, or else a grave.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 5775 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath  
are stored:  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift  
sword:  
His truth is marching on.  
Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910)
- 5776 War, he sung, is toil and trouble;  
Honour but an empty bubble.  
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 5777 Everything can collapse. Houses, bodies, and enemies  
collapse when their rhythm becomes deranged. In large-  
scale battles, when the enemy starts to collapse you must  
pursue him without letting the chance go. If you fail to  
take advantage of your enemies' collapse, they may recover.  
Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645)
- 5778 These are the time that try men's souls. The Summer  
soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis,  
shrink from the service of their country, but he that stands  
now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.  
Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have  
this consolation with us - the harder the conflict the more  
glorious the triumph.  
Paine (1737-1809)
- 5779 He that fights and runs away,  
May turn and fight another day;  
But he that is in battle slain,  
Will never rise to fight again.  
James Ray (fl. 1746)

- 5780 But Thy most dreaded instrument  
In working out a pure intent,  
Is man, - arrayed for mutual slaughter,-  
Yes Carnage is Thy daughter.  
Wordsworth (1770-1850)
- 5781 The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,  
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold.  
Byron (1788-1824)
- 5782 Like the leaves of the forest when summer is green,  
That host with their banners at sunset were seen;  
Like the leaves of the forest when autumn hath blown,  
That host on the morrow lay wither'd and strown!  
Byron (1788-1824)
- 5783 March to the battle-field,  
The foe is now before us;  
Each heart is Freedom's shield,  
And heaven is shining o'er us.  
Barry O'Meara (1786-1836)
- 5784 By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurl'd;  
Here once the embattl'd farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 5785 Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die.  
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)
- 5786 For what this whirlwind all aflame?  
This thunderstroke of hellish ire,  
Setting the universe afire?  
While millions upon millions came  
Into a very storm of war?  
For a scrap of paper.  
Charles Loyson (1827-1912)
- 5787 I hear the hoarse-voiced cannon roar,  
the red-mouthed orators of war.  
Joaquin Miller (1839-1913)
- 5788 Yes; quaint and curious war is!  
You shoot a fellow down  
You'd treat if met where any bar is,  
Or help to half-a-crown.  
Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

5789 Naval supremacy is the best security for the peace of the world...If...you are ready for instant war, with every unit of your strength in the first line and waiting to be first in, and hit your enemy in the belly and kick him when he is down, and boil your prisoners in oil (if you take any) and torture his women and children, then people will keep clear of you.

John A. Fisher (1841-1920)

5790 There will one day spring from the brain of science a machine or force so fearful in its potentialities, so absolutely terrifying, that even man, the fighter, who will dare torture and death, will be appalled, and so abandon war forever. What man's mind can create, man's character can control.

Thomas A. Edison (1847-1931)