

# PRINCIPLES OF GUERRILLA WARFARE



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The purpose of this article is to help introduce the basics of war and how it's fought in the most simplest of terms.

Strategy in military terms is defined as the art and science of employing the armed forces of a nation to secure the objectives of national policy by the application of force or the threat of force. If a conflict arises, this can be resolved by diplomatic or militaristic means. Allah, The Exalted, says in Surah al-Anfal,

﴿**And prepare against them whatever you are able of power and of steeds of war...**﴾ (8: 60)

Military strategy deals with the planning and conduct of campaigns, the movement and disposition of forces, and the deception of the enemy. Imam Bukhari recorded in his Sahih, that Abu Hurayra and Jabir bin 'Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with them, narrated that Rasoolullah, may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, said "**War is deceit.**"

In the United States Army's Field Manual of Military Operations, nine principles are defined regarding a successful strategy:

**1) Objective** - Directing every military operation towards a clearly defined, decisive, and attainable objective.

**2) Offensive** - Seize, retain, and exploit the initiative.

**3) Mass** - Concentrate combat power at the decisive place and time.

**4) Economy of Force** - Allocate minimum essential combat power to secondary efforts.

**5) Maneuver** - Place the enemy in a disadvantageous position through the flexible application of combat power.

**6) Unity of Command** - For every objective, ensure unity of effort under one responsible commander.

**7) Security** - Never permit the enemy to acquire an unexpected advantage.

**8) Surprise** - Strike the enemy at a time, at a place, or in a manner for which he is unprepared.

**9) Simplicity** - Prepare clear, uncomplicated plans and clear, concise orders to ensure thorough understanding.

According to Sun Tzu, in his historical manual on warfare called 'The Art of War' he summarizes the following:

**1)** Supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting.

**2)** The highest form of generalship is to obstruct the enemy's plans; the next is to prevent the junction of

the enemy's forces.

**3)** Military tactics are like water; for water in its natural course runs away from high places and hastens downwards. So in war, the way to avoid what is wrong is to strike what is weak. Water shapes its course according to the ground over which it flows; the soldier works out his victory in relation to the enemy whom he is facing.

**4)** Rapidity is the essence of war; take advantage of the enemy's un-readiness, make your way by unexpected routs, and attack the unguarded spots.

Early strategies included the strategy of complete extermination, consumption, wearing down, scorched earth action, siege, guerilla campaign, deception and distraction.

If one knows and understands the Messenger of Allah's strategy of warfare, it was based on the principles of awe, rate of motion, security, initiating attacks and economics of killing. This is what I intend to discuss in greater depth for our upcoming issues, with Allah's help.

