

**THE BOOK OF WAR:
THE MILITARY CLASSIC
OF THE FAR EAST**

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The Book of War: The Military Classic of the Far East by E. F. Calthrop

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E. F. CALTHROP

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THE MILITARY CLASSIC
OF THE FAR EAST

TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE BY
CAPTAIN E. F. CALTHROP, R.F.A.



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CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	7
THE ARTICLES OF SUNTZU	
I. PRELIMINARY RECKONING	17
II. OPERATIONS OF WAR	20
III. THE ATTACK BY STRATAGEM	24
IV. THE ORDER OF BATTLE	28
V. THE SPIRIT OF THE TROOPS	31
VI. EMPINESS AND STRENGTH	34
VII. BATTLE TACTICS	40
VIII. THE NINE CHANGES	44
IX. MOVEMENT OF TROOPS	47
X. GROUND	53
XI. NINE GROUNDS	58
XII. ASSAULT BY FIRE	67
XIII. THE EMPLOYMENT OF SPIES	70
THE SAYINGS OF WUTZU	
INTRODUCTION	75
I. THE GOVERNMENT OF A COUNTRY	77
II. ESTIMATION OF THE ENEMY	85
III. CONTROL OF THE ARMY	93
IV. QUALITIES OF THE GENERAL	101
V. SUITING THE OCCASION	108
VI. ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE TROOPS	116

THE BOOK OF WAR

INTRODUCTION

I

WRITTEN in the fifth century B.C., Sun-tzu and Wutzu still remain the most celebrated works on war in the literature of China. While the chariot has gone, and weapons have changed, these ancient masters have held their own, since they deal chiefly with the fundamental principles of war, with the influence of politics and human nature on military operations; and they show in a most striking way how unchanging these principles are.

When these books were written, China was a conglomerate of principalities in continual ferment. Personal ambition and