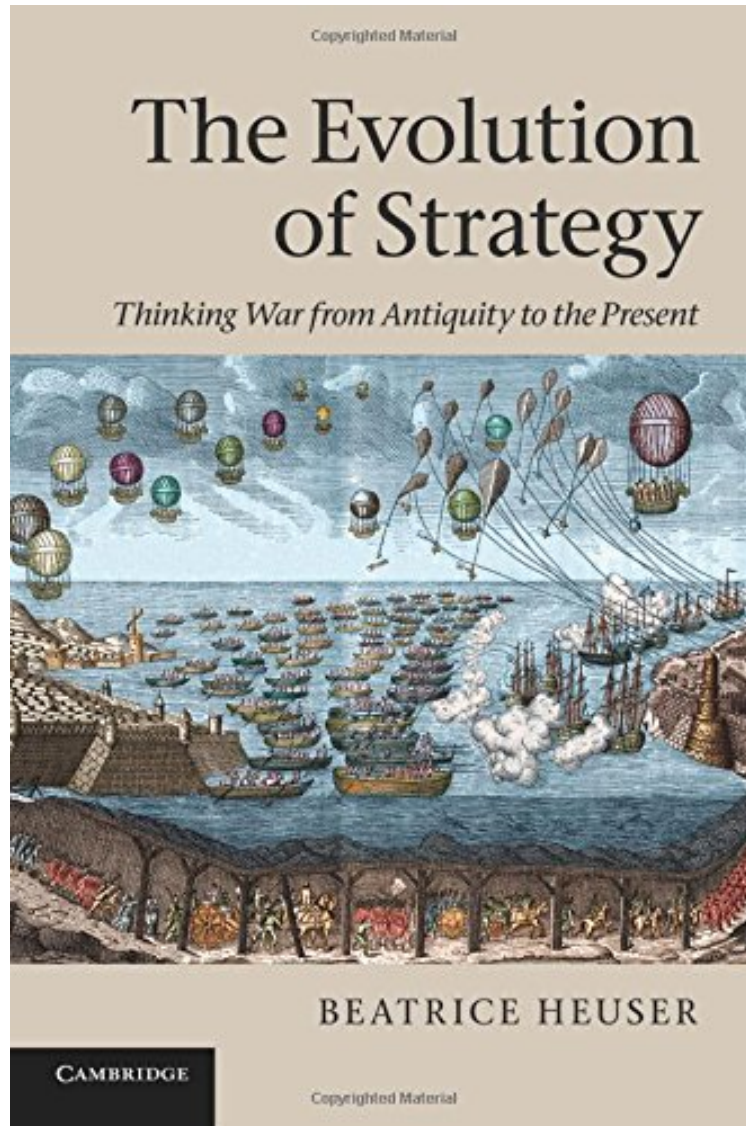


# The Evolution of Strategy: Thinking War from Antiquity to the Present

*Beatrice Heuser*

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#933478 in Books Heuser Beatrice 2010-11-30 2010-10-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.98 x 1.22 x 5.98l, 2.02 #File Name: 052115524X594 pagesThe Evolution of Strategy Thinking War from Antiquity to the Present | File size: 25.Mb

**Beatrice Heuser : The Evolution of Strategy: Thinking War from Antiquity to the Present** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Evolution of Strategy: Thinking War from Antiquity to the Present:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Heavy ReadingBy Sue M.I am a lay-person with a long standing

interest in strategy tactics. But in reading this book, I realized that there is much more to this topic than I had realized. While I recognized much of the 20th century terminology the much broader explanations debates were eye opening to me. I admit to forcing myself to plow throughout some segments much of the detail names are already lost to me. Nevertheless it gave me a much greater perspective. My husband attended the Naval War College in the mid 70s I typed his papers. I recognized names some of his required reading. My father had also had been a career military man. His career began in the Army Air Corp in 1939 later the Air Force. This may explain my interest. My 5 star rating is not based on my expertise of the subject. I can neither defend or argue against much of it. the book was more than I expected held my attention interest to the end. Therefore my rating is, again, based on lay perspective. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Maybe good for professionals but definitely not for amateurs - even ...By TornikeToo long, the same topics discussed without any hope of finishing... Maybe good for professionals but definitely not for amateurs - even for those who study history 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy Terry TuckerThis is a highly readable history that is packed with detail. I bought the Kindle edition of this book and am pleased with the format. This book has twenty chapters and starts with defining the art and science of strategy. It moves into what the author calls the "Long-term Constants" and then covers some of the key developmental periods of history - Napoleonic, Naval and Maritime strategy, Air Power and Nuclear strategy, "Small Wars" and then lastly, "The Quest for new paradigms after WW II."

Is there a 'Western way of war' which pursues battles of annihilation and single-minded military victory? Is warfare on a path to ever greater destructive force? This magisterial new account answers these questions by tracing the history of Western thinking about strategy - the employment of military force as a political instrument - from antiquity to the present day. Assessing sources from Vegetius to contemporary America, and with a particular focus on strategy since the Napoleonic Wars, Beatrice Heuser explores the evolution of strategic thought, the social institutions, norms and patterns of behaviour within which it operates, the policies that guide it and the cultures that influence it. Ranging across technology and warfare, total warfare and small wars as well as land, sea, air and nuclear warfare, she demonstrates that warfare and strategic thinking have fluctuated wildly in their aims, intensity, limitations and excesses over the past two millennia.

"Heuser's history of strategic theory and practice demonstrates extraordinary range, erudition, intelligence, and insight. She appears to have read everything, in many languages, about attempts to apply armed force effectively. The Evolution of Strategy will be the first port of call for those wanting to check up on the development of land strategy in the eighteenth century, maritime strategy in the nineteenth century, nuclear strategy in the twentieth century, or counterinsurgency strategy in the twenty-first century." Lawrence D. Freedman, Foreign Affairs "This is a real masterpiece. As a history of strategic thinking, ancient and modern, it is comprehensive, learned and authoritative. Its discussion of contemporary issues is shrewd and illuminating. It is lucid, wise, often witty, and above all, deeply humane. It should be essential reading for all students and practitioners of strategy: indeed I doubt whether they will need any other for a long time to come." - Sir Michael Howard, former Regius Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford "Beatrice Heuser has produced a book of immense and unique scholarship. The study provides the most detailed and comprehensive survey yet written on strategic thinking across the ages from Roman times to the contemporary debates about the future of warfare in the twenty-first century. It is essential reading for any serious university or military student of strategic studies or international security." - John Baylis, Emeritus Professor and formerly Pro Vice Chancellor, Swansea University "With this work Beatrice Heuser has made a major contribution. This is much more than just a survey of strategy through the ages, but a deep, intellectual examination of the complex relationships between strategy and war through the course of history." - Williamson Murray, Professor Emeritus of History, Ohio State University "Beatrice Heuser... has written one of the most important books on strategy and war to appear in recent years." - Survival, H.R. MacMaster "There can be no dispute that this is a major work by a recognised authority. Heuser set out to provide a survey of the literature discussing this subject over much of European history and there can be little doubt that she has achieved her aim." - Australian Defence Force Journal "Heuser's The Evolution of Strategy is a towering achievement... Any future treatment of the subject must build on this book's foundational work. This makes it not only a book that provokes the reader to think but one that is indispensable for those seeking to gain context and perspective on the role of war in world politics." - Patrick Porter, The Journal of Modern History "Beatrice Heuser has crafted a book that should stand as the first place of reference for serious scholars of strategic studies, international politics, and political/intellectual history for many years to come. Students across these disciplines should be very grateful to the author for producing such thoughtful analysis (not to mention such an impressive bibliography) that is guaranteed to enrich their future studies." Gwyn Davies, Florida International University, Journal of World History About the Author Beatrice Heuser is Chair of International History at the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Reading. Her widely-translated publications include Reading Clausewitz (2002) and The Bomb: Nuclear Weapons in their Historical, Strategic and Ethical Context (1999).