

1832

CARL VON CLAUSEWITZ
(1780 - 1831)

Life of Von Clausewitz

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|-------------|--|
| <u>1792</u> | Joined army at 12 years - was in war at that age |
| <u>1801</u> | War School Berlin |
| <u>1803</u> | Aide-de-Camp to Prince August of Prussia |
| <u>1806</u> | Prisoner of French (Napoleon) |
| <u>1810</u> | Attended War Academy |
| <u>1812</u> | Went to Russia and joined army of Czar Alexander I
to fight Napoleon who had taken over Prussia |
| <u>1832</u> | <u>Principles of War</u>
Military instruction of Prince Frederick William |

The book is his final lesson to the prince

9 Principles (Acronym) MOSSCOMES

Note: Von Clausewitz was never in command of an army.

The Nine Combat Principles

From: Principles of War, Carl Von Clausewitz

3 Objectives to any War:

1. Conquer and Destroy the enemy forces
2. Get possession of the material elements of aggression and the other resources of the enemy
3. Gain public opinion

9 Principles - Acronym "MOSSCOMES"

Mass - Concentration strongest at a decisive point.

Objective - Strike the main enemy force.

Surprise - Is most effective and powerful weapon of war.

Security - Guarding against surprise.

Coordination or Unity of Command

Offensive - Attack is best means of defense. Attack where possible.

Maneuver or mobility - Bring mass to close combat with the enemy (offensive); place mass where it can best counterattack.

Economy of force - keep minimum force necessary for defense in vulnerable spots, and, maximum force for offense at decisive spot.

Simplicity - plans and operations should be easily understood.

Nick Ovalle