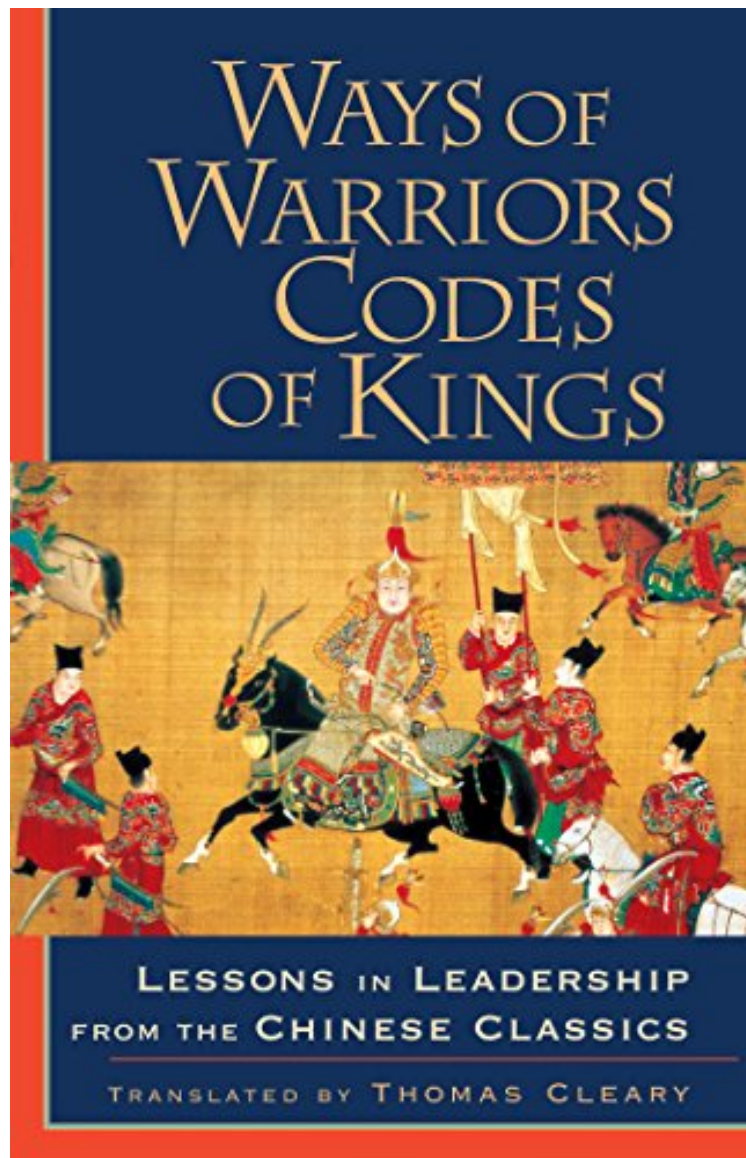


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## Ways of Warriors, Codes of Kings: Lessons in Leadership from the Chinese Classic: Lessons in Leadership from the Chinese Classics

*Thomas Cleary*

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**Thomas Cleary : Ways of Warriors, Codes of Kings: Lessons in Leadership from the Chinese Classic: Lessons in Leadership from the Chinese Classics** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ways of Warriors, Codes of Kings: Lessons in Leadership from the Chinese Classic: Lessons in Leadership from the Chinese Classics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A stellar book. By Shinobi First of all, you are right to be horrified when a manual of Chinese Daoist strategy talks about killing. However, intelligence saves more lives than it takes so stay calm. This book is excerpts from six books of Chinese strategy. It points out the central Daoist motif of water wearing away even stone. Mostly this book is about subtlety and secrecy, as Sun Tzu expounds that the Formless have an advantage in war. I will read this book many a time, so I am happy with this purchase!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Too abridged. By wiredweird What's good: Cleary's translations are as clear and readable as ever, making these extracts from the classic works very approachable. And, if you like "the meat" of a text without all those extra words taking up your time, you'll get that here, too. What's not: Context. This extracts aphorisms from six different Chinese classics of military strategy. Although the sound bites have a terse, to-the-point style about them, they could have been organized better (when blending six different books, go ahead and blend them!). And frankly, all those extra words had a purpose. They supposed the reasoning behind the punch-lines, offered historical and cultural grounding, and deepened the reader's understanding of what those brief, snappy throw-away lines were intended to mean. So, I really can't fault the material in this book. Instead, I have problems with the very large amount of material that's not. (And, if you already own some of Cleary's full translations, you'll find you've paid for some material twice.)

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Ancient "lessons" which are still relevant to the modern business world. By Robert Morris I recently re-read this book and Donald G. Krause's *The Book of Five Rings for Executives* and will now share my current reactions to what Thomas Cleary characterizes as "lessons in leadership from the Chinese classics" he has selected: *Master Wei Lao, The Book of Three Strategies, The Book of Six Strategies, The Warrior Code of the Charioteers, Wu Qi's Art of War, and Sun Tzu's Art of War*. In his brilliant Introduction, Cleary notes that the rise of modern China on the international scene "has stimulated increased interest in Chinese civilization, particularly in the strategic and tactical lore so prized in the fields of statecraft, military affairs, and commerce." What Cleary offers is an anthology of selections translated from several famous works of classical Chinese strategic lore. "All are about human potential, for better or worse." Of special interest to me is how Cleary organized the material. Rather than merely provide the six primary texts in sequence, he wisely chose brief excerpts from them that speak to a specific topic or issue. For example, from *Wu Qi's Art of War*, advice as to "When to Avoid Conflict" with opponents who possess six advantages, such as having help readily available from neighbors all around and assistance from large countries. "If you do not match up to an enemy in these [six] respects, avoid them unhesitatingly." When I first read this anthology in 1999, I did not fully appreciate the relevance and value of at least material that - at that time -- seemed simplistic. I was wrong. I now view each of the brief excerpts as a "nugget" of insight concerning some aspect of the process by which to formulate and then implement an appropriate leadership strategy or tactic to achieve a desired objective. Although *Sun Tzu's Art of War* remains the best known and most frequently read source among the six that Cleary includes, all of the other five also offer much of interest and value. (I am unqualified to suggest the nature and extent of influence between and among the six.) Yes, their authors anchored their observations and admonitions in the context of military competition and, yes, there is always a danger of forcing correlations with commerce competition 2,000-2,500 years later. Cleary does not make that mistake because, I suspect, he trusts his reader to determine for herself or himself the relevance of each excerpt to the modern business world. Presumably many of those who read this book will be encouraged to read all or some of the primary sources (i.e. *Master Wei Lao, The Book of Three Strategies, The Book of Six Strategies, The Warrior Code of the Charioteers, Wu Qi's Art of War, and Sun Tzu's Art of War*) as well as Machiavelli's *The Prince* and/or Carl von Clausewitz's *On War*. I also highly recommend several other books that Thomas Cleary has written, notably *Mastering the Art of War, The Book of Leadership and Strategy, and Zen Lessons: The Art of Leadership*. With regard to this last source, I conclude with one of my favorite passages from Lao-Tzu's *Tao Te Ching*: Learn from the people. Plan with the people. Begin with what they have. Build on what they know. Of the best leaders. When the task is accomplished. The people will remark. We have done it ourselves.

Here is a concise and user-friendly presentation of the ancient Chinese principles of leadership and strategy in the words of the masters themselves. Thomas Cleary has put together this collection of gems of wisdom from six of the great classics, including excerpts from his best-selling translation of *The Art of War* and other lesser-known but insightful texts.

Language Notes  
Text: English (translation) Original Language: Chinese  
About the Author  
Thomas Cleary holds a PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. He is the translator of over fifty volumes of Buddhist, Taoist, Confucian, and Islamic texts from Sanskrit, Chinese, Japanese, Pali, and Arabic.