

Robert Greene's book "The 33 Strategies of War" is rife with examples that Leaders of armies and Executives of major corporations can follow to achieve victory. One significant example is chapter 31, titled "Destroy From Within - The Inner Front Strategy." Within the realm of the unconventional war section, we see a tactic that organizations exploit to achieve powerful results, often without the other side knowing of that agent being there. Infiltrating an agent or agent into a hostile organization is often done covertly not to raise suspicions or alarms. Having an insider lends them an extraordinary advantage, often being able to move freely within the organization to commit espionage or sabotage. What is truly alarming is the devastation that can be wrought by only a few people working behind the scenes. Those seeking to gain an advantage over another force, especially one stronger than themselves, will find that a few confederates can bring the organization to its knees. As Greene highlights 45 seconds into the chapter, "No structure can stand for long when it rots from within." (Greene, 2015)

This argument is incredibly seductive in today's day and age. Information and currency flow through vast networks worldwide and require the use of technicians that maintain excellent skills to keep these systems running. So why are so many committed acts of espionage against their employers?

Governments and organizations have gone to great lengths in defining insider threats. Everything from who they are to what they can do and what to do when an employee suspects an insider has various and synchronous regulations, rules, and other documents. Even the United States Congress has gone to great lengths in illegalizing insider threat dealings and attacks. However, while there are numerous documents, none seem to give a clue as to why employees become insiders. Even with the threat of expulsion from organizations or a conviction that could lead to imprisonment, people are still committing these acts of espionage. The question is, why?

On the social media platform, Reddit exists a forum group called “AntiWork,” where people gather to detail difficult working conditions, report mistreatment by employers, and generally regard employment as nihilistic. With rising prices and socio-political pressures, many find that the promise of hard work will no longer reap the rewards. Obtaining rewards through whatever means is seen as a just course of action. (Reddit, n.d.)

Whether for malice, greed, or justice, the ability for people to commit insider threat attacks are simply too great for legislation and regulations to handle. People are far too numerous, and insiders can hide for years at a time and have access to the practices and intelligence that is the base of an organization. If governments and organizations genuinely desire to reduce the risk of insider threats, then a change of strategy is in order. Rather than using intimidation and fear, organizations would do well to support their employees through proper wages, benefits, and opportunity for advancement that is more than just a simple promise. While these efforts will not eliminate insider threat risks, the overall reduction and tendency to commit such acts would be more than worth the cost to the organization. Then, perhaps, society would change its perspectives and begin to see more hope in the future.

## References

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