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Classical Thinkers Ideas:

### Machiavelli

* Machiavelli talks about the problems with mercenaries
* Chris Rock talks from the point of view of the party attacking a state, while machiavelli talks from the perspective of someone defending the state
* The things that machiavelli warns against is exactly what chris rock talks about exploiting

### Sun Tzu

* Sun Tzu places great importance in the use of spies and espionage.[(link)](https://www.infoplease.com/primary-sources/philosophy-religion/art-of-war/sun-tzu-art-warby-sun-tzu-3) (Chapter13)
* Places great importance on proper communication

Strategy: a history

* staged rallies to controlled radio broadcasts
* Chapter 22 : Hilter mentions “the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily.”
* “the primitive simplicity of their minds,” they were more likely to fall victim to the big lie than the small lie as it “would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously.”
* The citizens would be fooled by a biggest lie than small ones
* Propaganda is a powerful tool to manipulate people into wrongdoings.

Conclusion:

How Can cyber warfare be used to destabilize and overthrow a government?

Chris rock/Introduction paragraph: < Cole

He talks about the use of mercenaries and the benefits of using them, he talks about the various methods of overthrowing the government (election, coup and revolution) and how you have to decide which would be the most useful to use. He then describes the method to overthrow the Kuwait government, to hack into the central banks under control of Kuwait’s leaders, hack into the private banks that the leaders have accounts in, transfer money from the central bank to the private accounts and then tell the media that the leaders “stole” money, which led to the citizens demanding the resignation of the leader that Chris Rock framed. So the main points of the Chris Rock Strategy are: Use mercenaries, hire people on the inside to give you an in, hack \*everything\* then frame the people you want to overthrow so the people have a reason to overthrow them. (good thesis? bad thesis?) >> Chris Rock shows excellent strategic thinking based on the examples of classical strategic thinkers. >> Chris Rock displays how Cyber warfare can be just as, if not more effective in destabilizing and overthrowing a government than traditional means.

Sun Tzu paragraph: < Jonny

The use of cyber espionage is primarily to gather and manipulate information. In Chris Rocks lecture and Q&A he explains how he was able to hack into the government website and the national banks of the state of Kuwaitt and manipulate, release and gather data that assisted in the collapse of the Kuwaitt government. The act of espionage is another way of defining spies and the use of spies which Sun Tzu placed great importance in *”no one should be more liberally rewarded than spies, ano no matters should be held in greater secrecy than those concerning spies.”*. Sun Tzu stated that *“Therefore one who is good at martial arts overcomes others' forces without battle, conquers others' cities without siege, destroys others' nations without taking a long time”* Spying does precisely this, it has the ability to conquer and overcome without bloodshed and battle through the implementation of false knowledge and the collection of valuable information. Sun Tzu talks about the 5 classes of spies” There *are five kinds of spies that can be employed: local spies, inside agents, double agents, expendable spies, and unexpendable spies.”*, but the two that matter the most in this context is the combination “Unexpendable” and the “Expendable” spy, the surviving spy is able to come back with valuable information, and the doomed spy is there to plant false data to sabotage. In the example of “The Revolution of Kuwait in 2011” provided by Chris Rock explains how he was able to relay information about the instability and the corruption within the state and exploit these factor which resulted in the eventual revolution of its people, Chris Rock shows us by using solely espionage how he was able to incite revolution within a state and eventually overthrow a corrupt government, which shows us how espionage and spying is still a great threat to us even now in our contemporary environment.

Machiavelli Paragraph: < Cole

The main point to stress here is that chris rock says to use mercenaries and machiavelli says to use anything \*but\* mercenaries. Chris says that mercenaries are more loyal to you than conventional troops because they will stay with you no matter what as long as you have money, machiavelli says that because mercenaries work for money then they can betray you if your enemy offers them more money. Machiavelli says that if you rely on mercenaries for the security of your state then you will be led to ruin, and this is exactly what chris rock wants to prey upon. Chris talks a lot about “if you cant break in then pay someone on the inside to let you in” and this is exactly what machiavelli warns against, that mercenaries will be bought out by the enemies of the state (us). “Know how to escape the vices that would take the state away from him” (page 54) here machiavelli is talking about how there are certain vices that a leader (or prince) could have that if discovered would lead the prince to ruin, that the people would have such a problem with the vice that they would demand, peacefully or otherwise, that the prince steps down. Chris Rock displays an example of this when he steals money from the central bank of Kuwait and transfers the money to the prime minister to frame him for stealing money, this angers the populace so much that they demand he step down and in the end, he does. Chris Rock says to hire mercenaries as it will make it seem not like a war, this will trick the leaders you are trying to overthrow into thinking that there is no \*real\* threat which will allow you to operate with relative impunity. Machaivelli warns against this that rulers in “peacetime” will become complacent and will not notice subversive elements taking place against them, he argues that “not to consider the possibility of a storm in good weather is a common defect among men” (page 83) This is exactly what Chris Rock preys upon in utilizing mercenary forces.

Freedman Paragraph: < Jun

Well execution of propaganda is one of the important strategies to strip down the defense and cause potential coup by manipulating their own citizens. When Chris mentioned framing prime minister by hacking into the banks and transferring money that he did not even do it but regardless of that it led to news media and citizens being informed by the news media and caused a violent protest that eventually led him to resign.

In the book that explains about how Nazi pull off their propaganda that convinced every citizens to believe in Hilter’s speeches. “the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily.” (chapter 22). When a collective of citizens are present it is way easier to convince them with news letting them inform them about the incident that the prime minister did not commit. It is like they believed what media have shown to citizens and they think those sources are the truth.

“The primitive simplicity of their minds, they were more likely to fall victim to the big lie than the small lie as it would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously.” This is the perfect example for the prime minister where citizens did not even realize that he was framed for corruption where it was not even him who moved the money, it was the hacker who caused all of the plot. That is why it is important to step back and observe and find what is the truth behind a scene. Saudi prime minister is a perfect example of using propaganda as a powerful weapon is that people can be easily fooled by a media where they won’t bother looking for the real truth, they just believe on the media where they control what people should be reading and think instead of making them think for themselves and make a clever decision, but as there are vast amount of information thanks to internet, it is also hard to find a real truth because the news can be easily fabricated into something fake and influence people to do something terrible not even knowing that they have been lied to.

Conclusion Paragraph: < Jun/Cole

The use of spies, mercenaries, and propaganda can be a massive weapon where it can deter people’s thoughts and their beliefs. Chris Rock clearly demonstrates a good knowledge of the strategic thinking that classical thinkers describe.

Chris Rock acted like a spy in Sun Tzu’s worldview, and acted exactly how Sun Tzu predicted.

Machiavelli warns against certain things that would lead to ruin for any leader of a state, Chris Rock shows how exactly someone would exploit those weaknesses.

For propaganda depending on what citizens listen to they can be led to wrong beliefs because of the media's manipulation.

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