**The outcome of war has long been determined by culture**

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Core Tip: Since modern times, Western countries have dominated the fate of the defeated, including the cultural fate, by virtue of their victories in asymmetric warfare. The history of human warfare shows that military confrontation is also a clash of cultures. The evolution of war forms depends on the cultural development of society as a whole. At the same time, war tools are also a touchstone for judging cultural power. In future wars, the status and role of culture will become increasingly prominent, and the dazzling war crown will often belong to the party with a higher cultural level. The evolution of war forms depends on the cultural development of society as a whole. Every era of social evolution has a corresponding war form, and the development of culture is the basic driving force behind the evolution of war forms.

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　　Every era of social evolution has a corresponding form of war, and the development of culture is the basic driving force for the evolution of war forms.

　　The inflexibility of European armies before the French Revolution was a reflection of the feudal system. They were, so to speak, bloated and cumbersome groups. Armies, like life in general, moved at a slow pace. An army, let's say 30,000 men, was followed by a large group of women, children, servants, and merchants, whose number often amounted to 50% to 150% of the army's strength. Wherever the army went, it had to drag this huge tail. As a result, their baggage, especially the baggage wagons carrying the officers' finances, themselves hindered all movement.

**The quality of war tools is a measure of the cultural level of the warring parties.**

　　British social anthropologist Malinowski pointed out that human material equipment, including utensils, houses, ships, tools and weapons, is the most understandable and elusive aspect of culture. They determine the level of culture and the efficiency of work. In all disputes about the "superiority" of nations, the final judgment lies in weapons, which are the last resort. From this we can see that weapons as material equipment are an aspect of culture and to a large extent play the role of arbitrators in resolving disputes. In the seven major battles of the Austro-Prussian War in 1886, the Prussian army equipped with breech-loading needle guns dealt a heavy blow to the Austrian army, and the Austrian army's casualties were as high as 3-8 times that of the Prussian army.

　　The reason why modern colonialists dared to travel across the ocean and wage war against the Celestial Empire was largely because they relied on its superior firearms technology and advanced shipbuilding technology. The Qing Dynasty's prestige was wiped out once it encountered British guns and cannons. The superstition that the Celestial Empire would last forever suffered a fatal blow, and the barbaric, closed-door, and isolated state from the civilized world was broken. To some extent, the history of the rise of a great power is a history of waves of military technological innovation that are higher than one wave.

**The outcome of a war depends on the cultural foundation of national education**

　　Engels foresaw the fundamental role of culture in the military field more than a hundred years ago. He summed it up brilliantly: from all past war experiences, we can draw a conclusion, and every unbiased, sound-minded and experienced soldier will confirm this conclusion: under the current military openness, only by thinking more, constantly improving and inventing in the military field and the use of national resources, and developing the unique military qualities of the nation, can a country's army leap to the top among competitors for a period of time. Therefore, we can see what kind of superior conditions a country with a relatively high cultural level has over its less developed neighboring countries in the military. Engels also emphasized the extreme importance of culture by taking the Russian army of his time as an example. Although Russian soldiers have all the excellent combat qualities, they have never surpassed the army of any civilized European country. Under the same conditions, no matter how hard the Russians fought, they were always defeated by the enemy, sometimes by the French, sometimes by the Prussians, Poles or the British. Coincidentally, since the Opium War, the Chinese army has been defeated repeatedly. The technical aspect is the confrontation between the military technology of the early industrial society and the military technology of the classical agricultural society. In essence, it is an expansion of the culture of the more advanced West to the less developed China. The outcome of the war was actually determined by the cultural gap between the two sides before the war, just as Prussia's victory in the Franco-Prussian War was determined as early as the elementary school teacher's podium.

　　The victory of advanced weapons over backward weapons means the victory of advanced productivity over backward productivity. The improvement of cultural level will undoubtedly lead to the improvement of productivity, and the increased productivity is the premise for improving combat methods. As Engels said, nothing is more dependent on economic conditions than the organization, organization, equipment, strategy and tactics of the army.

　　Cultural factors have played an important role in every military revolution, and this role has become increasingly stronger with the development of the times and the progress of society. Therefore, in order to actively promote the new military reform with Chinese characteristics, we must further deepen our understanding of the important position and role of culture, pay more attention to the security of military culture, and take the initiative to occupy the commanding heights of military culture.