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Exam: History of Art of War

Grade: **--** Jan Rehwaldt, University of Tartu

Q1:

The Roman State and Empire ran through several phases of war strategies. In the beginning of the state the main goal was defence, which was later replaced by expansion and conquer and, finally, before the collapse of the empire again dominated by defensive strategies.

With the establishment of the Roman Empire a permanent professional army of about 125.000 to 300.000 men (0.5 % of population) was installed. This army, additionally, already provided means of nowadays armies. Those include the separation of different fields within warfare. The army was separated into logistics, recruitment, training systems and professional office corps. This separation already shows the specialization of the Roman military system in those areas, which made the army highly successful.

The training system was strict and with ultimate punishment for whole units in case of misconduct. Moreover it provided permanent training for the whole army in unit and individually while a soldier is in service. Thus, the soldiers were permanently in top form and well trained and as this capable of long marches and tactical fights. Moreover the soldiers had high reputation within Roman’s society and some privileges such as no taxes and granted land. The army itself was dissected into small parts of legions with 4.000 to 6.000 men allowing to adopt to the enemies army size and formation.

Besides the professional training system a focus was put on logistics. During Roman Empire bridges and roads were built as well as special corps trained to enable a rapid movement of huge parts of the Roman army. The high mobility of the army was strength of the Roman army, especially in defensive phases. The Roman Empire had such a huge border that a high mobility was strongly required to guard the state. Additionally, allied states were settled around the state securing the Roman border.

During warfare Roman’s military system adopted war tactics, weapons and armour of their defeated enemy. Wars were brutal (kill or even fully destruct enemy) and long, with phases of attrition for all sides. This was considered to have a psychological effect on other potential enemies. Neighbour states, additionally, had the chance to surrender and accept Roman State under certain conditions. Thus fighting was only the ultimate mean.

Q2:

With Napoleon Bonaparte several changes were introduced into warfare. Besides the fact that king-nations became state-nations he made war the policy of his state. With state-nations nationalism aroused, which enabled Napoleon to mobilize rather huge portions of his population for armed service. He, furthermore, enabled France to dictate peace terms by constantly achieving sought. This tactic is referred to as break the will and still actual in nowadays warfare.

Additionally Napoleon brought a huge change to military affairs by introducing the separation of responsibilities within armies into Administration (G1), Intelligence (G2), Operations (G3) and Logistics (G4). This separation is still applied with some extensions by modern armies such as US Forces and changed the warfare in respect to specializations. Armies were enabled to operate and get trained much better. They established a major achievement in respects to organization, planning and training of army members.

Along with this developments a central operation organization and planning was launched, allowing gaining greater inside into current army positions and situations on battlefields. This enabled the commander to more specifically operate the different types of army during a battle. In order for this to become possible the telegraph and -phone had to be invented and militarily utilized first, which was initially seen in the American Civil War (1861–1865). Later inventions allowed using mobile radios for live communication on the battlefield further increasing the function of signal corps during a battle. Battles were no longer planned and operated on site, but from centralized headquarters coordinating all parts of the army.

Q3:

The US Doctrine of Information Warfare enables the use of Information Warfare also in peace time. Its main concepts are destruction, Military Deception, Psychological Operations and Operation Security and Electronic Warfare. The doctrine sees information and strategic resource, which is vital to the national security as they heavily influence decision-making processes. Information Operations are considered to take place within all stages of war and military operations as well as supporting all parts of the army. Its strategic goal is to discourage any kind of adversary by gaining information superiority or creating misinformation. This might be achieved by influence, disruption, corruption, usurpation of an enemy’s informational environment. Thus, information may be added, modified or removed, the information infrastructure may be affected or the perception and processes, how people get in contact with information, may be attacked with means of Information Warfare. Attacking points are characterized as physical, informational and cognitive – at the level where signals are measurement, where information are processed and aggregated and where decisions are made on basis of that information, respectively.

The Russian doctrine also aims at influencing the decision-making processes of the enemy, but is less technically focusing. Its view is much wider also taking whole societies into account, which they aim to manipulate and observe by means of Informational Operations. From this point of view mass media is also covered by Russia’s doctrine. Additionally, their doctrine even includes aspects of influencing parts of the society by using biological manipulations. Generally it is apparent that the Russian doctrine is broader than the US doctrine. Informational Warfare and Operations may, as in US doctrine, take place before, during and after a conflict and thus even be applied in peace times. Informational Operations, such as cyber-attacks, also generally aim at psychological aspects. On the other hand are the Information Operations an independent type of military and not interrelated such as the US counterpart. Finally, Russia’s doctrine also covers the own society and how to manipulate it, whereas the US’ doctrine particularly excludes Informational Warfare and Operations from its own society and only allows its application on military-related issues.

Whereas the US doctrine may be to narrow, the Russian is rather broad making it difficult to focus operations. Additionally the US doctrine is more integrated into the whole military structure of its army making it more advanced and faster in conflicting situations. The Russians, on the other hand, have advanced knowledge in society manipulation and may use it as advantage within all phases of a conflict.