
Appendix D

Principles of War

References: Joint Pub 1 and Joint Pub 3-0

1. The principles of war represent fundamental truths in the practice of military art that have stood the test of time. Students who have reviewed and researched warfare over the years still have not reached consensus on a single list of principles of war; but they all will attest that such principles are a good starting point for evaluating military strategy and tactics, and these principles form the foundation for the application of operation planning.
2. In-depth discussions of our current principles of war can be found in joint and Service publications. Joint Pub 1, *Joint Warfare of the U.S. Armed Forces*, discusses the principles of war and their application in joint warfare. Army Field Manual No. 100-1, *The Army*, Naval Doctrine Publication 1, *Naval Warfare*, Air Force Manual 1-1, *Basic Doctrine of the U.S. Air Force*, and Fleet Marine Force Manual FMFM 6-4, *Marine Rifle Company/Platoon*, all contain extensive discussions of the principles of war. Excellent articles about the principles of war can be found in *Military Review* (May 1955 and September 1981) and *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings* (November 1986). **Figure D-1** lists the principles of war adopted by five different countries to facilitate comparisons and contrasts.
3. The principles of war guide warfighting at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Several principles can be involved in any particular application concerned. The following lists the purposes of each:
 - **Objective:** To direct every military operation toward a clearly defined, decisive, and attainable objective.
 - **Offensive:** To seize, retain, and exploit the initiative.
 - **Mass:** To concentrate the effects of combat power at the place and time to achieve decisive results.
 - **Economy of Force:** To allocate minimum essential combat power to secondary efforts.
 - **Maneuver:** To place the enemy in a position of disadvantage through the flexible application of combat power.

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- **Unity of Command:** To ensure unity of effort under one responsible commander for every objective.
- **Security:** To never permit the enemy to acquire unexpected advantage.
- **Surprise:** To strike the enemy at a time or place or Ina manner for which it is unprepared.
- **Simplicity:** To prepare clear, uncomplicated plans and concise orders to ensure thorough understanding.

PRINCIPLES OF WAR

UNITED STATES	GREAT BRITAIN AUSTRALIA	FORMER SOVIET UNION "Principles of Military Art"	FRANCE	PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Objective	Selection & Maintenance of Aim			Selection & Maintenance of Aim
Offensive	Offensive Action			Offensive Action
Mass	Concentration of Force	Massing & Correlation of Forces	Concentration of Effort	Concentration of Force
Economy of Force	Economy of Force	Economy, Sufficiency of Force		
Maneuver	Flexibility	Initiative		Initiative & Flexibility
Unity of Command	Cooperation			Coordination
Security	Security			Security
Surprise	Surprise	Surprise	Surprise	Surprise
Simplicity				
	Maintenance of Morale	Mobility & Tempo, Simultaneous Attack on All Levels, Preservation of Combat Effectiveness, Interworking & Coordination	Liberty of Action	Morale, Mobility, Political Mobilization, Freedom of Action

Adapted from JT Pub 1, FM 100-1, AFM 1-1, and FMFM 6-4
Military Review, May 1955, and Soviet Battlefield Development Plan

Figure D-1