

Wednesday,

October 5, 2016

TAO OF

DECEPTION

SHORT BOOK

REVIEW BY A.H

AMIN

Written in 2007



SUMMARY

Ralph D Sawyer integrates

ancient chinese theory of
deception with modern china.

Sawyer singles out
manipulation using

deception as a tool as the
real essence of war as
analysed by ancient Chinese
masters primarily Sun Tzu.

He analyses in detail how deception was used in chinese history for multiple objectives from simple deception to discrediting a countrys most capable general. Sawyer in 2007 assessed that China and USA are engaged in a massive global conflict and

China will go the last extent to compensate for its massive material and technical weaknesses vis a vis united states. On page 398 for example sawyer states that these could involve " low tech systematic sabotage and subversion on vast scale. I read this book in

preparation of a massive war
game involving china versus
various contender states.

When I met Chinese in
Afghanistan and Pakistan I
realised that these puny
characters must not be
underestimated and

PHILOSOPHICALLY

SPEAKING given a choice

between a snake and a

chinese , a chinese should

be eliminated first , IN

PHILOSOPHICAL TERMS.

Sawyer brilliantly integrates

the ancient with the modern.

For anyone who wants to

deal with chinese this is a
must read book.

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THE DAO OF DECEPTION-

Book Review - Agha H Amin

THE DAO OF DECEPTION:

UNORTHODOX WARFARE

IN HISTORIC AND

MODERN CHINA BY

**RALPH D SAWYER – NEW
YORK – BASIC BOOKS -
2007- ISBN-978-0465-
07205-7 -490 PAGES –
29.95 USD**

**Deception has been the
most central concept in
Chinese history and above
all Chinese Military**

thinking since time

immemorial.

The writer highlights that

Chinese military thought

accords the highest value

to the concept of

“manipulation” that is the

central handle for

deception.

Sawyer discusses in detail the Chinese theory of deception centered around what we now know as the concept of disinformation. He examines subtle maneuvers like creating a situation by manipulation that makes a country's ruler regards his most

**capable general as a threat
and remove him.**

**Sawyer lays great
emphasis on the Chinese
concept of Chi (qi) which he
defines as “
unorthodox”.**

**On other hand Sawyer
identifies the concept of
orthodox , known as**

**Cheng or zheng in
Chinese.**

**Both Chi and Cheng may
be used in multiple
combinations so Chinese
deception can take many
forms oscillating between
the orthodox and
unorthodox as analysed by
Sawyer.**

**As early as 2007 Sawyer
felt that China and USA
were engaged in a massive
struggle for global
dominance and China
would employ the most
ruthless methods in
deception against the USA.
This as per Sawyer could
take form of systematic**

**low tech sabotage and
subversion.**

**I was particularly struck by
Afghanistan where the
Taliban were not seen by
the Chinese as enemy and
the Taliban rarely attacked
Chinese barring the
Kunduz attack which killed
twenty or so Chinese**

**triggered by Chinese
miserliness in paying road
construction bills.**

**I had bought this book in
2007 and as I saw Chinese
investments in worlds
largest copper mine at
Ainak in Logar province in
initiation and could see**

**both Chi and Cheng in
operation.**

**While puny powers like
Holland and Romania were
attacked in Afghanistan ,
Chinese were not touched .**

**Was there some uncharted
and invisible policy in
operation.**

**Similarly the US and NATO
inefficiency in supporting
Chinese Uighurs ,
particularly selecting the
most incompetent
subcontractors who could
not deliver was shocking.**

**While a relatively backward
and weaker Chinese state
could so brilliantly employ**

**methods discovered by
Sun Tzu thousands of
years ago , here was a so
called highly industrialized
super power USA and the
European heavy NATO
whose intelligence
contracts against China ,
particularly supporting
Uighurs and Tibetans were**

**so deeply bogged down in
quicksands of massive
corruption.**

**The A_____s and so many
others incharge of Chinese
operations were simply
incompetent.**

**I recollected reading an
article by Sahibzada Yaqub
Khan in Pakistan Army**

**Journal in 1979 titled “ Not
by superior Hardware
alone” !**

**The article highlighted the
decisive and central role of
the man behind the gun in
military history .**

**While the so called
despised Chinese tortoise**

**was brilliantly employing
Chi and Cheng , the far
superior NATO and USA
were severely handicapped
by a very western malady
called materialism more
popularly known as
corruption.**

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About the Author

Agha H. Amin , Retired Tank corps major who served in five tank regiments and commanded an independent tank squadron and served in various staff , instructional and research assignments. Presently heads think tank Centre for Study of Intelligence Operations. Editor in Chief of monthly Intelligence Review and monthly Military and Security Review. In his Pakistan Army tenure he wrote three original tactical papers on Reconnaissance Troops Tactical handling, Reconnaissance support group , and RFS Concept. His writings were published in Pakistan Armys prime journals , Pakistan Army Journal and Citadel Journal of Command and Staff College Quetta.

His recommendations regarding bifurcation of officer corps into command and staff cadre advanced in 1998 were later accepted. In addition his recommendation of grouping various corps into army commands advanced in an article published in Citadel Journal in 1998 were accepted in 2005 or so. Wrote Pakistan Armys first tactical paper on Tactical handling of Reconnaissance Troop in 1986 which is now being incorporated in Pakistan Armys most important general staff publication " The Armored Regiment in Battle". Wrote The Essential Clausewitz in 1993, Sepoy Rebellion of 1857-59 in 1998 , Pakistan Army till 1965 in 1999 ,Development of Taliban Factions in Afghanistan and Pakistan (2010) ,Taliban War in Afghanistan (2009). Served as Assistant Editor of Defence Journal ,Executive Editor of globe and Founder Editor of Journal of Afghanistan Studies .

An associate of the think tanks ORBAT and Alexandrian Defense group. Expert in social impact and environmental assessment carried out various LARP surveys for Asian Bank and World Bank projects. He has lectured at various think tanks and organisations worldwide and shares his knowledge without any honorarium and at zero financial benefits. Carried out various oil and gas and power transmission line surveys in West Asia. One time Assistant Editor Defence Journal , Executive Editor Globe, Editor Journal of Afghanistan Studies Feedback is welcome at e mail address L19aircraft@gmail.com

Presently heading **Centre for Study of Intelligence Operations** which he founded in early 2010 and editing Intelligence Review, Indian Military Review and Journal of Book Reviews.

PLAIN AS WELL AS SUBTLE ASPECTS OF MILITARY DECISION MAKING

NOTES

- ¹*Pakistan Army Journal*, March 1991, P. 78.
²*Oxford Dictionary*, 1979, PP. 264 & 265.
³*Collins Dictionary*, 1979, P. 127.
⁴*Glossary of Military Terms and Definitions*, GSP-1840, P. 109.
⁵*Field Service Regulations (Operations)*, GSP-1509, P. 17.
⁶*On War*, Clausewitz, Editor Rapoport, Collins 1976, p. 243.
⁷*Ibid*, P. 147.
⁸*Ibid*, P. 227.
⁹J.F. Donceel, Sheed and Ward, *Philosophical Psychology*, London 1955, P. 323.
¹⁰*On War*, P. 163.
¹¹George Urwin, *The German Army in the West*, Siegfried Westphal, 1975, London, P. 114.
¹²*Pakistan Army Journal*, March 1991, P. 78.
¹³*On War*, P. 261, 262.
¹⁴*Ibid*, P. 185.
¹⁵*Ibid*, P. 163.
¹⁶*Ibid*, P. 307.
¹⁷Philip Zimbardo, *Psychology and Life*, Foresman and Company, Illinois USA, 1975, P. 225.
¹⁸Keegan and Andrew, *Who's Who in Military History*, Hutchinson London, 1987, P. 274.
¹⁹J.F.C Fuller, *Decisive Battles of Western World*, Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1963, P. 223.
²⁰*Ibid*, P. 227.
²¹*Ibid*, P. 217.
²²*Ibid*, P. 201, 202.
²³Richard Hough, *The Great War at Sea 1914-1918*, Oxford Press, 1986, P. 239.
²⁴*A Genius for War*, Dupuy P.
²⁵FM Marnstein, *Lost Victories*, Methuen and Company, 1958.
²⁶Heinz Guderian, *Panzer Leader*, Unwin Brothers, London 1952, P. 166, 168.
²⁷Paul Cartell, *Hitlers War On Russia*, George Harrap, London, 1964, P. 267.
²⁸*Lost Victories*, P. 220.
²⁹*Ibid*, P. 227.
³⁰John Connel, *Aushin Leck*, Cassell London, 1959, P. 373.
³¹Slim, *Defeat into Victory*, Cassell, London, 1956, P. 293.
³²*On War*, PP. 143, 199, 167 and 168.
³³*Military Works*, Volume 2, P. 172.
³⁴Dupuy, *A Genius for War*, Arthur Barker, London, 1980, P. 276.
³⁵*The Command Decision*, Rendatic, Headquarters NATO, 1947, P. .
³⁶*On War*, P. 292.
³⁷*Ibid*, P. 145.
³⁸FM Montgomery, Collins, *The Path to Leadership*, Saint James Palace, London, 1961, P. 51.



Major Agha Humayun Amin (Retired) was commissioned in March 1983 in 11 Cavalry (FF). He has been a General Staff Officer Grade-3, Instructor Class 'C' in School of Armour and Mechanized Warfare and Officer Commanding of an Independent Armoured Squadron. Retired from the Army in March 1994. Presently, he is heading a private business concern. He is also the founder chairman of Political Military and Social Analyst Group.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE ACKNOWLEDGES MY DONATION



Lt Gen Muhammad Maqbool
National Defence College
Sector E-9, Islamabad
Telephone No: 857630
PF/ 6874/L1b

5 August 96

Major Agha Humayun Amin (Retired)

Dear Major Humayun,

five books

Thank you very much for your letter of August 17, 1996. It is indeed very kind and thoughtful of you sending four very valuable books for the College Library. I assure you they will be read with immense interest by the researchers/participants and other members of the library.

Once again, I wish to thank you for your deep consideration for our institution.

With very best wishes and regards,

*Yours Sincerely
maqbool*

PAKISTAN ARMY TILL 1965 REACHES US ARMY WAR COLLEGE CARLISLE

Carlisle Barracks CATS Search: MARCTH CATS (link) (keyword: pakistan army)

Page 1 of 1

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Record 7

"South Asia Division, 1947-1965" Williams, William Robert, 1908-2007 "Army Pub. 1971" Military History Institute Library (UMH) D431.D40 V24 W1 Available

Record 8

"The Pakistan Army till 1965" Khan, Asghar Hussain, 1956-2007 "Strategies and Tactics 1959" US Army War College Library (UMD) P3 A11 196 Available

Author: Asghar Hussain
Call No: D431.D40 V24 W1
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Pakistan Army till 1965
At US Army War College
Carlisle, PA

From : Ed Luttwak
Sent : Saturday, July 19, 2003 5:10 PM
To : pavocavalry@hotmail.com
Subject : Re:

MAIL-RECVD... | Inbox

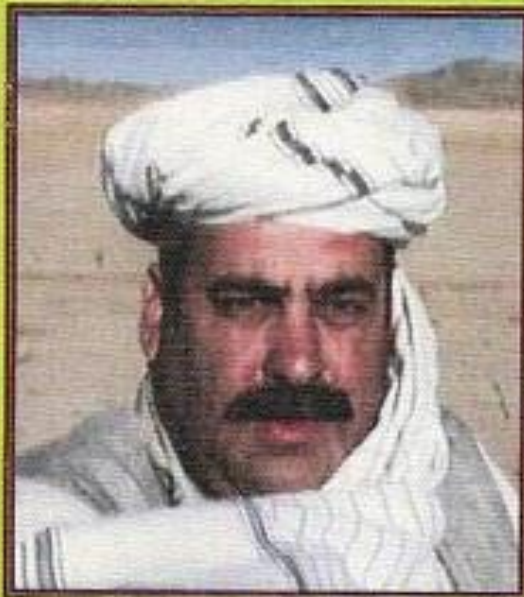
Thank you for your thoughts (1st class strategic thought even when I happen to disagree) . All powers in a world of powers reach culminating points at various stages . But interim imbalances can persist for a bit --ie. longer than our lives & much more sometimes . Empires exist in those interim periods. Re. war at the operational level: low-contrast enemies can evade destruction but cannot seriously destroy either, only irritate.

EDWARD N. LUTTWAK

>From: "A. H AMIN"
>Date: Fri, 18 Jul 2003 09:50:20 +0000
>

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From: A. H AMIN <pavocavalry@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2003 9:50 AM



Major Agha H. Amin
Pakistani Army, Retired



David J. Osinski
COL., USAR, Retired, currently U.S. Africa
Command



Dr. Paul Andre DeGeorges

Edmond Mellen



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY
103 THIRD AVENUE
FORT LESLEY J. MCNAIR, DC 20319-5058

DAMH-FP

27 July 2007

Dear Major (Retired) Agha Humayun Amin,

I would like to formally invite you along to attend the upcoming Conference of Army Historians (CAH) in Washington DC, 6-9 August 2007. We would be honored if you would present your paper on "Growth of Non State Actors in Pakistan and Afghanistan and their impact on the ongoing Low Intensity War in Afghanistan." I am sure that many in the US Army Historical Community would find your research particularly relevant.

This biennial conference features presentations on joint and combined military history as well as papers presented by civilian historians from government, academia, and members of the international military history community, such as yourself.

The topic of the 2007 CAH is Irregular Warfare, 1775-2007. We greatly appreciate the participation of the Russian Institute of Military History. Our colleagues will be especially happy to meet you at this most interesting conference.

I do look forward to seeing you again and listening to your presentation. I do hope that you will be able to attend.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Davis".

Dr. Richard G. Davis
Chief, Field Programs and Historical Services
U.S. Army Center of Military History



22 May, 1995

Dear MAJ(Retired) Agha Humayun Amin,

Thank you so much for your letter and your interest in leadership and character development. I have sent your work to our military leadership department (The Department of Behavioral Science & Leadership) for their dissemination and review. West Point prides itself as being the premier leadership institution in the U.S., and we constantly strive to produce "leaders of character" for our nation. Our Military Art class draws heavily upon the works of Clausewitz; therefore, your summary will prove interesting to our own instructors.

Thanks again for your letter, your books and your interest. I wish you the best of luck in the future.

Sincerely,

Freddy E. McFarren
Brigadier General, USA
Commandant of Cadets

MAJ (R) Agha Humayun Amin
P.O. Box 6027
Lahore Cantt Pakistan
92342/358556



CENTER *for the* STUDY of INTELLIGENCE

27 September 1996

Agha Humayun Amin

Lahore Cant.
Pakistan


Dear Major Amin:

Many thanks for your book, The Essential Clausewitz, which arrived on the 25th. This looks fascinating and will really help me understand Clausewitz better. I am currently enrolled in the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, so this is a timely book.

We are keeping very busy here since you were here in April for the Society for Military History's conference. In fact, we have another conference next week on Venona, the intercepts of the Soviet communications. I am sending you copies of the Spring and Summer newsletters which will keep you posted on our activities.

Once again, thank you very much for thinking of the History Staff and your book will make a welcome addition to our library. Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Kevin C. Ruffner
CIA History Staff



Major General Pervez Musharraf
Headquarters 40 Division
Okara Cantt.
Telephone : Military : 326
PF/6920/DO

31 January 1993


Major Agha Humayun Amin
5 Independent Armoured Squadron
Okara Cantonment

My dear Humayun,

Thank you very much for sending me a
copy of "The Essential Clausewitz" written by
you. It was very thoughtful of you indeed.

I also commend you on your professional
effort.

with best wishes,

Yours Sincerely




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Willy.Kotiuga@snc-lavalin.com

August 28, 2011

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Reference for Mr. Agha Humayun Amin, President of Afghan Toll Transoxonia

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is without any reservation that we give a high recommendation for the services that Mr. Agha Humayun Amin, President of Transoxiana Afghan Toll, provided to our company on two World Bank funded projects to do a feasibility study on bringing power from the Central Asia region through Afghanistan to Pakistan in 2010 and 2011.

Transoxiana Afghan Toll was our local consultant providing survey services to help us prepare preliminary transmission line routing options through Afghanistan. On two separate projects, he validated routing option and on one of the projects. He also performed an on-site inspection in the critical Salang Pass region to validate placement of transmission infrastructure. He provided us with maps which were used in our reports.

We are very grateful for the services provided and would have no reservations in using their services on future work in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Should you require additional information, it would be my pleasure to personally respond to your questions.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Willy Kotiuga".

Willy Kotiuga, Ph.D, Eng.
Senior Director, Power Systems
T&D Division

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Armour

from 20 APR 91 to 11 JUL 91 and stood SECOND in the course

NOWSHERA

Dated JUL 91

BRIGADIER
Commandant