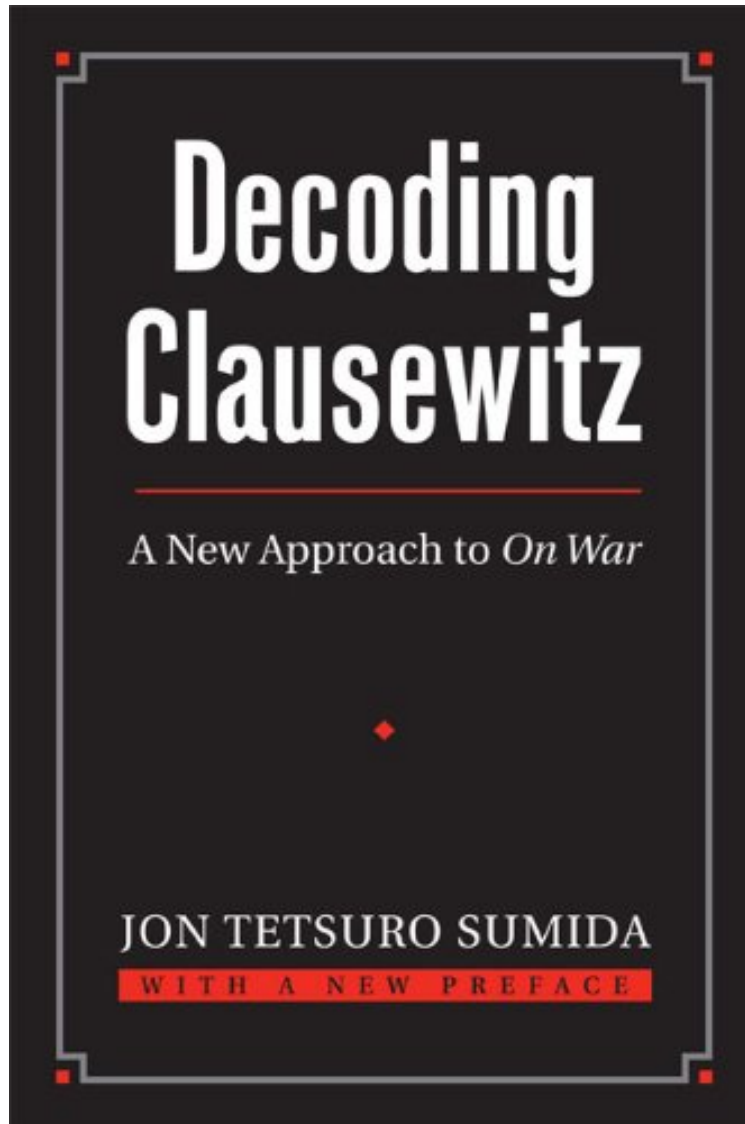


(Free) Decoding Clausewitz: A New Approach to On War (Modern War Studies (Paperback))

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Jon Tetsuro Sumida

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Jon Tetsuro Sumida : Decoding Clausewitz: A New Approach to On War (Modern War Studies (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Decoding Clausewitz: A New Approach to On War (Modern War Studies (Paperback)):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This was an essential book to read before tackling On ...By TeamOThis was an essential book to read before tackling On War. It helps to have a basic understanding of

Clausewitz' ideas and intentions in advance because his masterpiece is disjointed and unfinished.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy BKMGood analysis-- but there's no beating Clausewitz original words and concepts12 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly Code BreakingBy Retired ReaderCarl von Clausewitz is a clear and straight forward writer so it must be asked does he really need someone to `decode' him. Well the short answer is yes. As Sumida points out in this excellent companion to "On War", Clausewitz presents some extremely complex ideas in his unfinished master work. Further although his prose style is clear, his exposition of his ideas and arguments often is not. As his discussion of the distinction between "absolute war" and "real war" demonstrates. In a related example it is no means clear that weather by "people's war" he means guerilla warfare in support of regular forces or independent guerilla operations or what today is called asymmetrical warfare. As the result Sumida notes, von Clausewitz has been routinely misinterpreted by scholars as well as ordinary readers.In this work Sumida provides summaries of the views of some of the most distinguished critics of "On War" and attempts to show where such criticism is the due to misinterpretation of von Clausewitz. He then proceeds to a careful analysis of what he believes von Clausewitz actually meant explain about the theory and practice of war. In some ways this book is like a collection of extremely good end notes to the first four books of von Clausewitz's works.For this reader the best way to deal with Sumida's expository book is to first read "On War" then read "Decoding Clausewitz", then reread "On War" using Sumida's book as you would use a set of footnotes. In this respect one can truly treat Sumida as a decoder of what is a difficult, but important body of work.

For nearly two centuries, *On War*, by Carl Phillip Gottfried von Clausewitz (1780-1831), has been the bible for statesmen and military professionals, strategists, theorists, and historians concerned about armed conflict. The source of the famous aphorism that "war is an extension of politics by other means," it has been widely read and debated. But, as Jon Sumida shows in this daring new look at Clausewitz's magnum opus, its full meaning has eluded most readers—until now.Approaching Clausewitz's classic as if it were an encoded text, Sumida deciphers this cryptic masterwork and offers a more productive way of looking at the sources and evolution of its author's thought. Sumida argues that *On War* should be viewed as far more complete and coherent than has been supposed. Moreover, he challenges the notion that *On War* is an attempt to explain the nature of armed conflict through the formulation of abstract theories.Clausewitz's primary concern, Sumida contends, was practical instruction of the military and political leadership of his country. To achieve this end, Clausewitz invented a method of reenacting the psychological difficulties of high command in order to promote the powers of intuition that he believed were essential to effective strategic decision-making. In addition, Sumida argues that Clausewitz's primary strategic proposition is that the defense is a stronger form of war than the offense. This concept, Sumida maintains, must be understood in order to make sense of Clausewitz's positions on absolute and real war, guerrilla warfare, and the relationship of war and policy/politics.Sumida's pathbreaking critique is supported by examination of the Prussian officer's experience during the Napoleonic Wars, previous major theoretical and historical scholarship on Clausewitz and his writing, and modern philosophical and scientific works that have much in common with Clausewitz's creative guide to the consideration of strategic practice. A major study of intellectual and military history, Sumida's book provides a provocative and above all readily comprehensible treatment of a previously inaccessible classic. It will surely become essential reading for all military professionals and serious students of military thought.

“Sumida offers a brilliant and convincing reevaluation of Clausewitz’s thought, his magnum opus *On War*, and his continued relevance to modern warfare. . . . A major statement by a leading military historian and intellectual heavyweight.”—Robert M. Citino, author of *The German Way of War* “A thoughtful, provocative, and refreshing look at Clausewitz and his classic treatise.”—Charles E. White, author of *The Enlightened Soldier: Scharnhorst and the Militrische Gesellschaft in Berlin, 1801–1805* “Compelling, elegantly written, and entirely convincing.” —George W. Baer, author of *One Hundred Years of Sea Power: The U.S. Navy, 1890–1990*“Sumida’s discussion of military genius, decisionmaking during wartime, and the relationship between history and theory in military education is profound. His ideas reflect a synthesis of the philosophy underpinning the founding of, among other institutions, the Marine Corps University. This book is a new must-read for national strategists and anyone who strives to be a serious student of war.”—*Marine Corps Gazette*“An original, argumentative, intelligent, disgressive, and interesting book. . . . Any diligent reader of Sumida will be impelled to think seriously about major issues in *On War*—*Journal of Military History*From the Back Cover“Sumida offers a brilliant and convincing reevaluation of Clausewitz's thought, his magnum opus *On War*, and his continued relevance to modern warfare. . . . A major statement by a leading military historian and intellectual heavyweight.”--Robert M. Citino, author of *The German Way of War* "A thoughtful, provocative, and refreshing look at Clausewitz and his classic treatise."--Charles E. White, author of *The Enlightened Soldier: Scharnhorst and the Militrische Gesellschaft in Berlin, 1801-1805* "Compelling, elegantly written, and entirely convincing."--George W. Baer, author of *One Hundred Years of Sea Power: The U.S. Navy, 1890-1990*About the AuthorJon Tetsuro Sumida is associate professor of history at the University of Maryland and author of *Inventing Grand Strategy and Teaching Command: The Classic Works of Alfred Thayer Mahan Reconsidered and In Defense of*

Naval Supremacy: Finance, Technology and British Naval Policy, 1889-1914. He served as chair of the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Committee from 2003 to 2006, and as Major General Matthew C. Horner Chair of Military Theory at the Marine Corps University from 2004 to 2006.