

B. H. Liddell Hart

Quotes

*Military, War, Lying, Ideas, Mean, Real, Soldier, Army, Thinking, Air, Strong,
Moving, Mind, Enemy, Men, Self, Should Have, Country, Issues, Fighting*

The only thing harder than getting a new idea into the military mind is to get an old one out.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

In war, the chief incalculable is the human will.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

If you want peace, understand war.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The most dangerous error is failure to recognize our own tendency to error.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

Ensure that both plan and dispositions are flexible, adaptable to circumstances. Your plan should foresee and provide for a next step in case of success or failure.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The profoundest truth of war is that the issue of battle is usually decided in the minds of the opposing commanders, not in the bodies of their men.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The downfall of civilized states tends to come not from the direct assaults of foes, but from internal decay combined with the consequences of exhaustion in war.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The most effective indirect approach is one that lures or startles the opponent into a false move - so that, as in ju-jitsu, his own effort is turned into the lever of his overthrow.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

Air Power is, above all, a psychological weapon - and only short-sighted soldiers, too battle-minded, underrate the importance of psychological factors in war.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

For whoever habitually suppresses the truth in the interests of tact will produce a deformity from the womb of his thought.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

A complacent satisfaction with present knowledge is the chief bar to the pursuit of knowledge.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

Guerrilla war is a kind of war waged by the few but dependent on the support of many.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

In the case of a state that is seeking not conquest but the maintenance of its security, the aim is fulfilled if the threat is removed - if the enemy is led to abandon his purpose.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

Inflict the least possible permanent injury, for the enemy of to-day is the customer of the morrow and the ally of the future

~B. H. Liddell Hart

Loss of hope rather than loss of life is what decides the issues of war. But helplessness induces hopelessness.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

Direct pressure always tends to harden and consolidate the resistance of an opponent.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The theory of the indirect approach operates on the line of least expectation.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

To foster the people's willing spirit is often as important as to possess the more concrete forms of power.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

No man can exactly calculate the capacity of human genius and stupidity, nor the incapacity of will.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

It is thus more potent, as well as more economical, to disarm the enemy than to attempt his destruction by hard fighting ... A strategist should think in terms of paralysing, not of killing.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

With growing experience, all skillful commanders sought to profit by the power of the defensive, even when on the offensive.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

War is always a matter of doing evil in the hope that good may come of it.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

In reality, it is more fruitful to wound than to kill. While the dead man lies still, counting only one man less, the wounded man is a progressive drain upon his side.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The unexpected cannot guarantee success, but it guarantees the best chance of success.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The military weapon is but one of the means that serve the purposes of war: one out of the assortment which grand strategy can employ.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

It is only too clear from history that states rarely keep faith with each other, save in so far (and so long) as their promises seem to them to combine with their interests.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The nearer the cutting off point lies to the main force of the enemy, the more immediate the effect; whereas the closer to the strategic base it takes place, the greater the effect.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

For even the best of peace training is more theoretical than practical experience ... indirect practical experience may be the more valuable because infinitely wider.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

A modern state is such a complex and interdependent fabric that it offers a target highly sensitive to a sudden and overwhelming blow from the air.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

Every action is seen to fall into one of three main categories, guarding, hitting, or moving. Here, then, are the elements of combat, whether in war or pugilism.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The effect to be sought is the dislocation of the opponent's mind and dispositions - such an effect is the true gauge of an indirect approach.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

While hitting one must guard ... In order to hit with effect, the enemy

must be taken off his guard.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The higher level of grand strategy [is] that of conducting war with a far-sighted regard to the state of the peace that will follow.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

For the spread and endurance of an idea the originator is dependent on the self-development of the receivers and transmitters.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

If you wish for peace, understand war.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The search for the truth for truth's sake is the mark of the historian.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

Avoid self-righteousness like the devil- nothing is so self-blinding.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The practical value of history is to throw the film of the past through the material projector of the present on to the screen of the future.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The urge to gain release from tension by action is a precipitating cause of war.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

As has happened so often in history, victory had bred a complacency and fostered an orthodoxy which led to defeat in the next war.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

The implied threat of using nuclear weapons to curb guerrillas was as absurd as to talk of using a sledge hammer to ward off a swarm of

mosquitoes.

~B. H. Liddell Hart

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