



## Practice Biopsy Book Study Club

*Learning Awesome Things, to Become more*

*Awesome....*



### Preface

Having a strategy is an ability to **look up from the short term and the trivial, to view the long term and the essential.** Any realm you are working within can and should have a strategy: Clinical strategy, war strategy, business strategy, parenting strategy. Anything you value with importance should have planning and strategy behind it. Less, you leave these areas of importance up to chance.

Strategy is more than a plan. Strategy is implemented where there is actual or potential conflict, interests collide, and forms of resolution are required.

**“A plan supposes a sequence of events that allows one to move with confidence from one state of affairs to another. Strategy is required when others might frustrate one’s plans because they have different and possibly opposing interests and concerns.”**

The ‘plans’ we set out are very unlikely to go as planned. A strategy takes this into account and is a living and adaptable form of a plan.

**Combining forces with others in an alliance constitutes one of the most astute strategic moves; and at the core many strategies boil down to doing just this.** Preventing opponents from doing the same can be similarly valuable.

**This book is not necessarily to advise strategic methods, but rather a history of the evolution of strategic thinking throughout the ages.** This comes from both documented history as well as literature that has shaped our thinking (mythology, religion, allegory, etc)

### Origins: Evolution

**“In this chapter I argue that there are elemental features of human strategy that are common across time and space. These include deception and coalition formation, and the instrumental use of violence.”**



These features are seen virtually universally in humans and even Chimp strategy tactics when we study chimpanzees (which are self and

group-aware enough to engage in these sort of things). Chimps are well-documented as being political in their behavior. They are known to build alliances, offer grooming, sex, and food to supporters -- with the goal of prevailing in power conflicts. Also smart enough to understand the **value of limiting conflict so that they could live cooperatively thereafter.** (The alternative is perpetual war and destruction - a lose situation).

**1970s: Frans de Waal** - Book titled *Chimpanzee Politics* in which he studied chimp colony society.

**“Raw strength could only take the chimps so far....those gaining power were not necessarily the strongest.”** **Story:** The dominant chimp was named **Yeroen**.

-Initially enjoyed support of most of the females but was uncertain how to respond to an overt challenge to his authority by another male chimp (**Luit**). Luit mated with a female chimp which ‘belonged’ to Yeroen, in front of Yeroen. Then got another male chip (**Nikkie**) to join his group. The other chimps saw this happen, and shifted their allegiance to Luit. Yeroen lost his dominant role in the colony - though he was bigger and stronger. Yeroen’s strength and tantrums were not effective in maintaining the alpha role. He eventually accepted his new role and worked together w/ Nikkie, Luit and the other chimps. He never again became the dominant chimp.

**De Waal observed: Actual fighting occurred rarely and was a small part of the power process. “Rather than changing the social relationships, the fights tended to reflect the changes that had ALREADY TAKEN PLACE.”** The chimps minimized fighting within their own colony because they knew they may need to unite against an outside enemy at some point.

**Chimps are also well observed using trickery (deception) ex**tricking other members of the group out of food or sneaking off for female courtship when alpha male chimp is not paying attention. Sneak attacks during wars.

“Working effectively in groups required understanding the particular characters of other members of the groups, how they were ranked in the hierarchy and with whom they had attachments, and what all this might mean in specific situations.”

## *Strategies of Violence*

Darwin’s ‘Struggle for Existence’

Violence is an occurrence at the conflict of an in group vs an out group. Individual conflict is common in animals, but warfare is much more rare.

**Strategy vs Mindless battle?**

Ants are an example of ‘mindless battle’ there are no tactics, planning, or maneuvers. Purely a battle of attrition.



**“Ant warfare is in no sense strategic....restless aggression, territorial conquest, and genocidal annihilation of neighboring colonies whenever possible. If ants had nuclear weapons, they would probably end the world in a week.”** Remember, the chimps knew they needed to limit

violence for the long term good. They minimized it as much as possible. Minimized direct conflict in general as much as possible. The more they are working together, the safer they are and the more they can do to improve their circumstances vs wasting energy fighting.