



## Practice Biopsy Book Study Club

*Learning Awesome Things, to Become more*

*Awesome....*



### **New Science and Clausewitz**

Around the year 1800 there was a dramatic shift in war tactics and strategy. The word *Strategy* only came into the lexicon in the 19th century. Before 1800 or so, intelligence-gathering and communications systems were slow and unreliable. For that reason, generals had to be on the front lines - or close to it.

The limited communication ability - resulted in a limit to how complex and flowing a plan could be. Any adjustments could take, hours, days, or weeks to relay to your team. Transportation was also historically slow. Moving resources took a great time.

**Napoleon** was at the forefront of pushing ahead with this new heightened science of strategy.

Napoleon was not a profound inventor of strategy, but rather a prolific applicator. He largely put into effect the tactics written by Frederick the Great. The goal was to turn the army into a **responsive instrument**

Napoleon understood that an opponent may be stronger than you in many ways, but there will be weak points, or rather points where you are really strong. You'll need to determine your specific points of superiority. Napoleon was also known for splitting his army up vs attacking in a single large wave. He would instead attack from multiple angles. **Napoleon was not one for indirect**

**strategies, he preferred direct, though crafty, attacks as opposed to diplomacy. He had little aversion to violence and thus is often remembered as a villain of history.**



**“Always show confidence, for you can see your own troubles, but you cannot see those facing your enemy.”**

**The Battle of Borodino raised doubts about Napoleon's Direct methods.** The battle took place just outside Moscow in 1812. It was a massive battle involving over a quarter of a million soldiers. Over 75,000 deaths and/or captures occurred in the battle. The Napoleon and the French won the battle (from their perspective), but Russia did not consider it a defeat from their perspective.

Though France won the battle, Russia refused to concede control of Borodino and the victory terms Napoleon had set in place.

**Basically, Napoleon won the battle, but had depleted his resources so much he did not have the power to maintain control of the territory.** They instead found themselves stranded with hunger and cold.



And of course, Russia had all resources easily at their fingertips. *(let's remember here that historically if a 'major battle was lost' then the loser would concede and willing give up power -- to avoid future violence - Russia opted to NOT do that).* **Instead of Capitulating, Russia allowed most of Moscow to be burned. It was a gamble.**

After 5 weeks, Napoleon was totally out of resources and had to begin a **historically brutal march back to France with nothing to show for it.** Only the night of November 8th/9th alone - it is believed that over 10,000 of Napoleon's men and horses froze to death. This would start a downward spiral for the people's faith and respect of Napoleon which would culminate in this once great leader and many-time battle victor - being exiled from the country.

## Clausewitz

Carl Von Clausewitz served in both the Prussian (Germany) and the Russian army. He was present in Napoleon's attempted takeover of Russia at Borodino.

He became an author and teacher on the topic of war strategies and techniques and published the text *On War*.

**His achievement was to develop a conceptual framework that captured war's essence sufficiently for subsequent generations to return to it when seeking to make sense of conflicts of their own time."**

Clausewitz in the end tells us that in war and politics there is always 'friction' which renders true outcomes short of the intended goals - always. Just as friction, physically, will



