

BLITZKRIEG AND GUERRILLA STRATEGY.

Infiltration

- Blitz and guerrillas infiltrate a nation or regime at all levels to soften and shatter the moral fiber of the political, economic and social structure. To carry out this program, a la Sun Tzu, Blitz and Guerrillas:
- Probe and test adversary to unmask strengths, weaknesses, maneuvers, and intentions.
- Shape adversary's perception of the world to manipulate or undermine his plans and actions.

Purpose

- To force capitulation when combined with external political, economic, and military pressures.
- or
- To minimize the resistance of a weakened foe for the military blows that will follow.

WORLD WAR II  
Blitzkrieg

Action

- Intelligence, reconnaissance (air and ground), and patrol actions probe and test adversary before and during combat operations to uncover strengths, weaknesses, moves, and intentions.
- Schwerpunkt (point of main effort) established before and shifted during combat operations to bypass adversary strength and strike at weakness. Nebenpunkte (points of other effort) employed to tie-up or drain-away adversary strength.
- Indirect and direct air firepower efforts together with (any needed) sudden/brief preliminary artillery fires are concentrated in sharply defined areas of main effort to impede (or channel) adversary movement, disrupt communications, suppress forward defensive fires, and obscure the advance.
- Armored reconnaissance or stormtrooper teams, leading armored columns, advance rapidly from least expected regions and infiltrate adversary front to find paths of least resistance.
- Armored assault teams of tanks, infantry, combat engineers, anti-tank/assault guns, and other specialists, together with close artillery and air support, quickly open breaches and gaps along paths of least resistance uncovered by armored reconnaissance or stormtroopers.
- When breakthrough occurs, relatively independent mobile/armored teams led by armored recce, with air support (recce, fire, and airlift when necessary), blow-through to penetrate at high speed deep into adversary's rear along paths of least resistance. Object is to cut lines of communication, disrupt movement, paralyze command and envelop adversary forces and resources.
- Motorized or foot infantry further back supported by artillery and armor pour-in to wipe-out isolated pockets of resistance, enlarge the breaches and secure the encirclement or captured terrain against possible counter-attack.

Idea

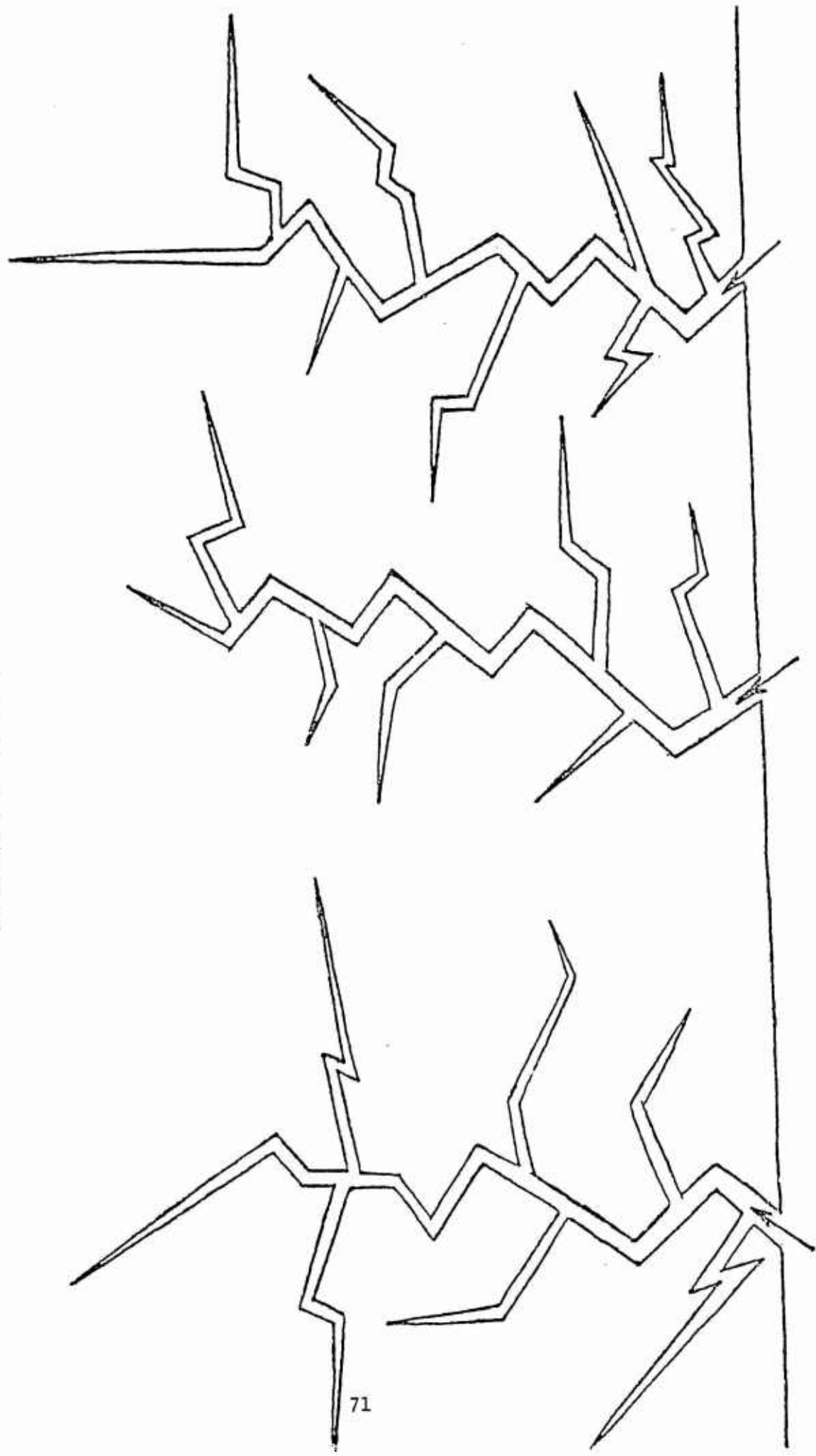
- Conquer an entire region in the quickest possible time by using initial surprise coupled with fast tempo/fluidity-of-action and cohesion of armored teams, with air support, as basis for quick concentration and shifting of attack and follow-on echelons against an adversary's communication, command, and support structure in order to confuse, disorder, and finally shatter his will or capacity to resist.

## UNIFYING CONCEPT OF BLITZKRIEG

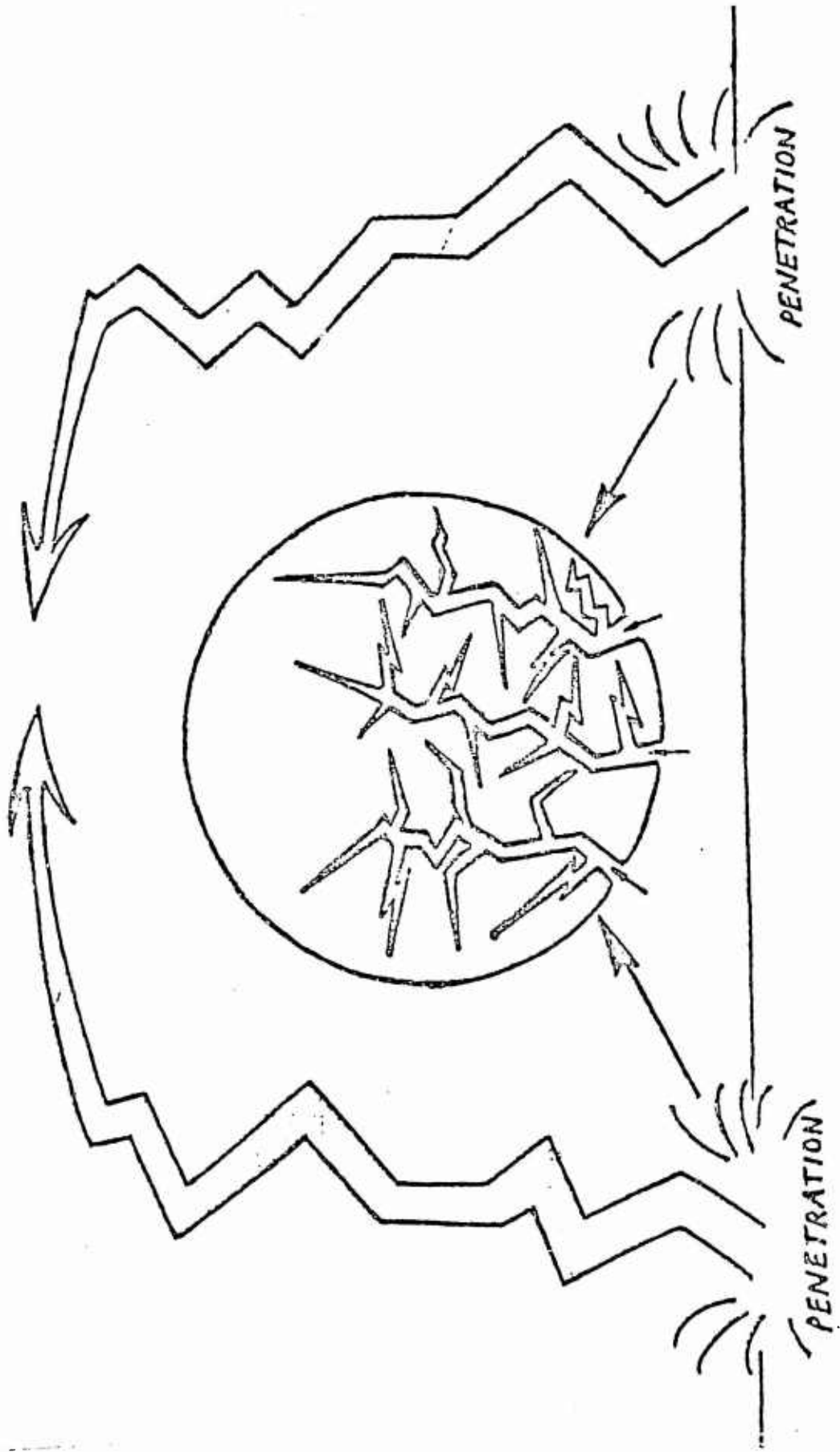
### Schwerpunkt (Point of Main Effort)

- Implies a dramatic thinning out of force and effort in other sectors as basis to generate local superiority.
- Applies at all levels from platoon to theater.
- Center or axis around which:
  - Maneuver (fire and movement) of all arms and supporting elements are focused to exploit opportunities and maintain tempo of operations.
  - Initiative at tactical level is meshed with intent at strategic level.
- Unifying concept that provides a way to focus effort, harmonize (as well as focus) support activities with combat operations and permit a true decentralization of tactical command within centralized strategic guidance -- without losing cohesion of overall effort.

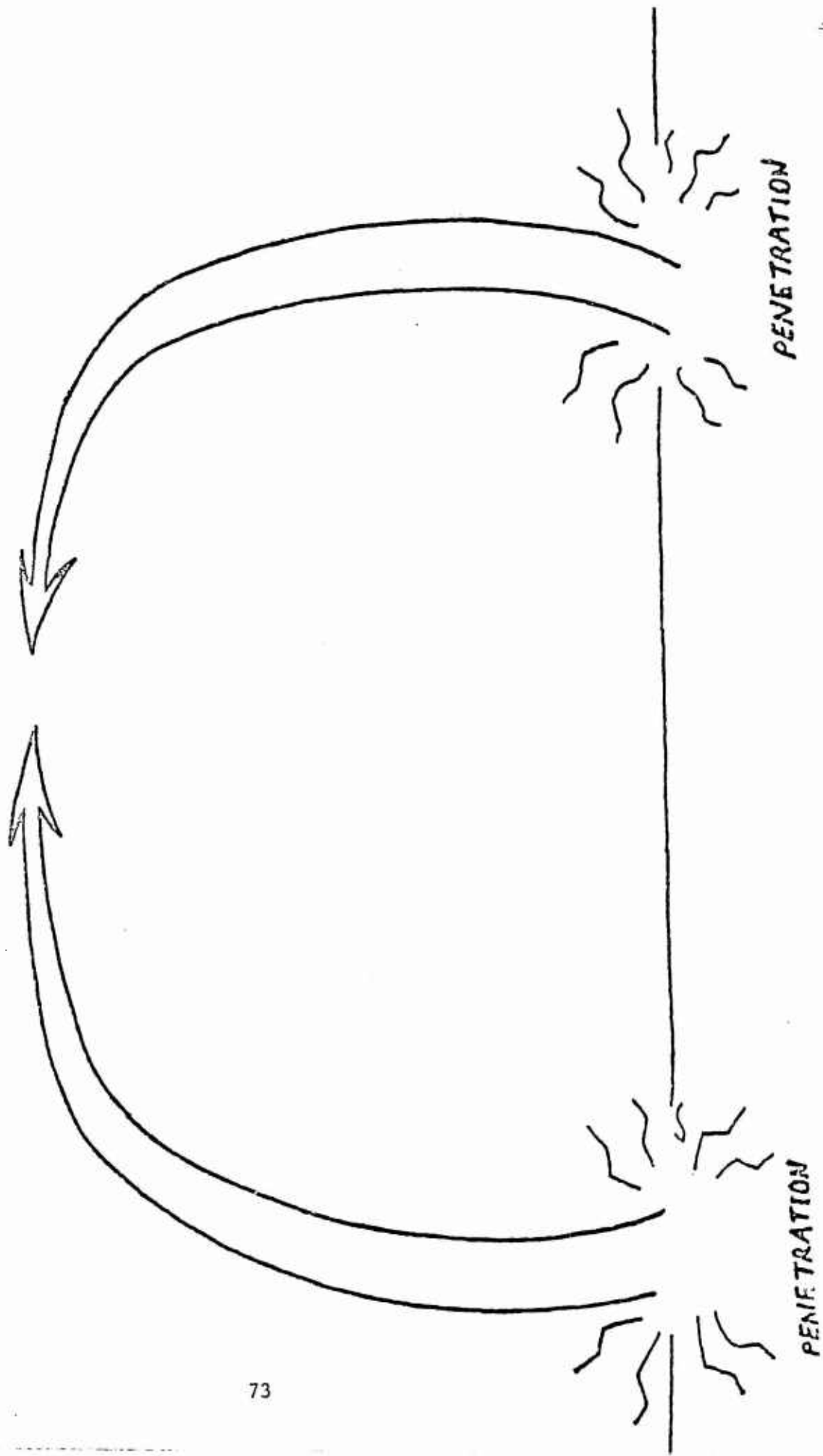
IMPRESSION OF THE BLITZKRIEG PENETRATION



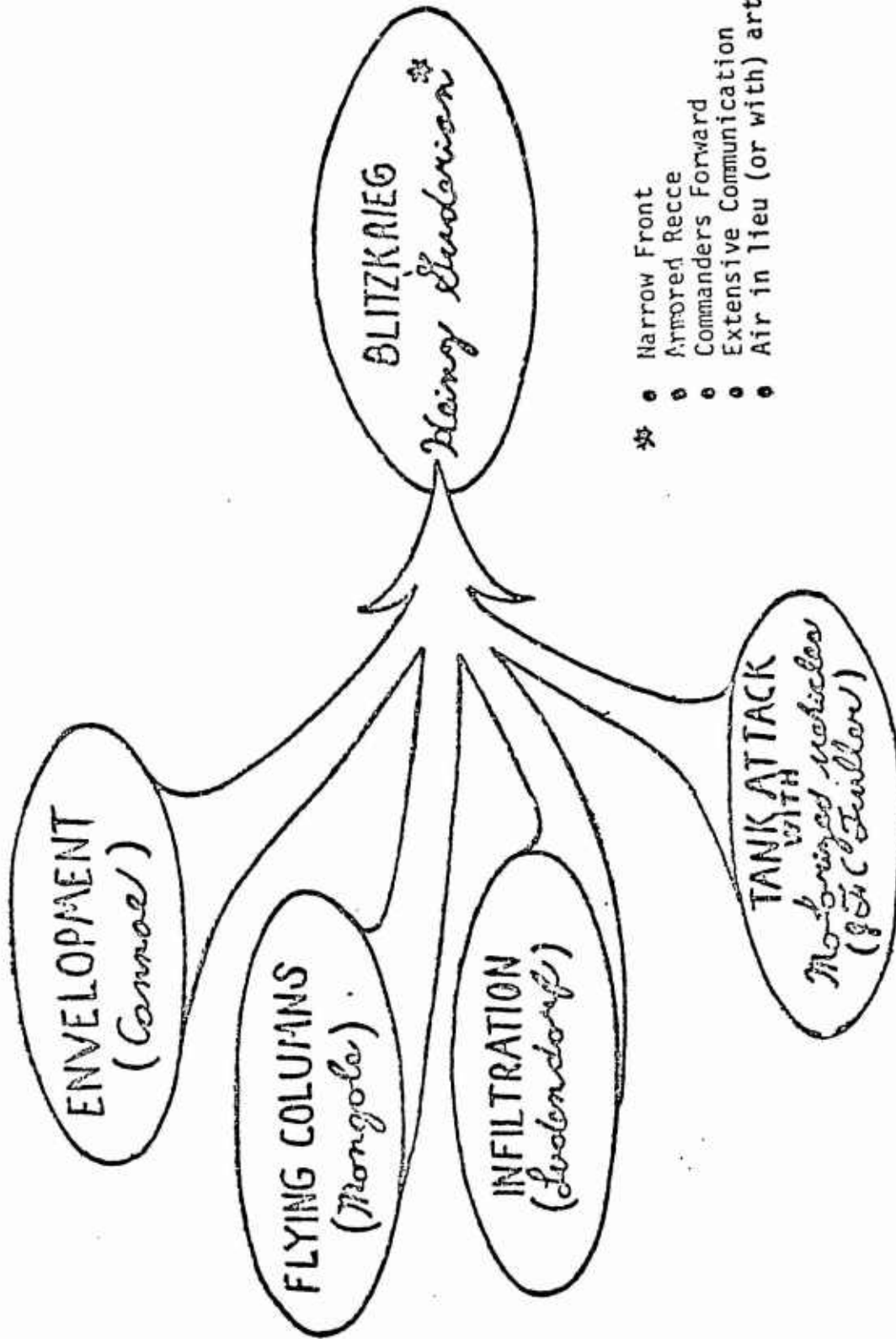
*Impression of the Liner  
(Envelopment)*



*Typical Impression  
of Blotting of Envelopement*



# Creation of the Blitzkrieg



## WORLD WAR II

### Blitzkrieg

#### Key to Success

- Use of Schwerpunkt concept to focus, shift, and harmonize operations and support at all levels.
- Intelligence, reconnaissance (air and ground) and stratagem emphasized before and during combat operations to unmask and shape patterns of adversary strengths, weaknesses, moves, and intentions.
- Initial surprise coupled with fast tempo/fluidity-of-action and cohesion of armored teams, with air support, to permit repeated and rapidly shifting concentration of strength against weakness thereby generate doubt and uncertainty which magnify into panic and chaos.
- Decentralized command -- based on "schwerpunkt" -- with wide freedom for lower level combat leaders (forward) to exploit opportunities generated by rapid action within a broad loosely woven scheme laid down from central command.
- Superior mobile communications to maintain cohesion of overall effort and to enable higher command levels to allocate reserves and support and to shift point of main effort.
- Essential and only essential logistics tail (using airlift when appropriate and necessary) to support high speed movement and rapid shift among routes of advance.



## MODERN GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN

### Action

- Capitalize on corruption (real or imagined), incompetence and unwanted presence of existing regime to organize and maintain mass popular support through a militant political program.
- Set-up administrative and military organization, sanctuary and communications network under the control of the guerrilla political leadership without arousing regime's intelligence and security apparatus.
- Probe and test, by infiltration of regime political/military organization, to uncover strengths, weaknesses and intentions.
- Disrupt the political/economic/social structure by fomenting civil disorders (such as rallies, demonstrations, strikes and riots), by selected terrorism and by the use of sabotage to demonstrate and magnify (by propaganda) the presence of corruption and the inability of regime to govern.
- Employ tiny cohesive bands for surprise hit-and-run raids against lines of communications to gain arms and supplies as well as disrupt government communication, coordination, and movement. Retreat and melt into environment when faced by superior police and armed forces.
- Employ methods to expand guerrilla influence/control over inhabitants and countryside as basis to gain more recruits, expand base areas and erode government influence. (e.g., encourage government to indiscriminantly take harsh anti-population reprisal measures, magnify grievances of population and play upon their obsessions by propaganda and "re-education". ...)
- Harass ever larger government concentrations (in front, flank, and rear) with ever larger bands by sudden ambush against supply columns and patrols and by infiltration or sneak attack against isolated detachments. Disperse to avoid open combat or a major assault by superior forces.
- Demonstrate disintegration of regime by carefully selected attack against major force units using methods of conventional warfare.

### Idea

- Defeat existing regime by politically challenging the right and ability to govern and militarily by continuously using stealth/fast tempo/fluidity-of-action and cohesion of small bands as basis for concentration, dispersion and shifting of forces to harass, confuse and ultimately destroy his will or capacity to resist.

MODERN GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN

KEY TO SUCCESS

- Ability to continuously demonstrate government weakness, erode government influence, and alienate government from population.
- Environmental background and use of stealth/fast tempo/fluidity-of-action coupled with cohesion of tiny bands as basis for repeated concentration against weakness, dispersion to avoid adversary strength and shifting of effort to keep initiative.
- Support of population (both psychological and physical) that willingly furnishes recruits, intelligence, transportation, shelter, refuge, food, money and medical aid.
- Sanctuary (or base) as safe area to which guerrillas "can retire voluntarily or involuntarily, for rest, recuperation, repair of arms, clothing, and " equipment, and where recruits can be indoctrinated, trained and equipped."

BLITZ/GUERRILLA THEME

Essence

- Initial surprise and shock followed by surprise and shock again, again, again, ...
- Avoid battles -- Instead disrupt connections, centers, and activities that provide cohesion (communications, lines of communication, command and supply centers, ...).
- Roll-up the isolated units/remnants created by the surprise, shock and disruption.

Intent

- Shatter cohesion, produce paralysis and bring about adversary collapse -- by generating confusion, disorder and panic.

DISRUPT THE CONNECTIONS AND CENTERS THAT PROVIDE COHESION

Israeli example (a la Gen. Y. Yadin - 1949)

"To exploit the principles of war for our purpose and base ourselves upon strategic indirect approach, so as to determine the issue of the fighting even before fighting has begun, it is necessary to achieve the three following aims:

- (a) to cut the enemy's lines of communications, thus paralysing his physical build-up;
- (b) to seal him off from his lines of retreat thus undermining the enemy's will and destroying his morale;
- (c) to hit his centers of administration and disrupt his communications thus severing the link between his brain and limbs."

BLITZ RESULTS

<u>Successful</u>		<u>Unsuccessful</u>	
● Poland	1939	● Russia	Winter 1941-42
● France	1940	● Russia	Fall, Winter 1942-43
● Balkans	1941	● North Africa	1942
● Russia	1941	● Russia	Summer 1943
● North Africa	1941-42	● Ardennes	Winter 1944-45
● Russia	Summer 1942		
● Russia	Feb-March 1943		
● Advance Thru France	1944		
● Manchuria	1945		
● Middle East	1967		
● Middle East	1973		

GUERRILLA RESULTS

Successful

- American Colonies 1775-81
- Spain 1808-14
- Russia 1812
- German East Africa 1914-18
- Arabia 1916-18
- China 1927-49
- Russia 1941-45
- Yugoslavia 1941-45
- Indochina 1945-54
- Algeria 1954-62
- Cuba 1956-59
- South Vietnam 1958-75

Unsuccessful

- Philippines 1899-1902
- South Africa 1900-02
- Greece 1944-49
- Philippines\* 1946-54
- Malaya\* 1948-60

\* Regime exercised particular care not to inflict casualties and to protect population.

? KEY QUESTION ?

- Why have Blitz and Guerrilla tactics been so extraordinarily successful?

## FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE

### Action

- Blitz and Guerrillas repeatedly and unexpectedly hurl strength against weakness by being able to move and shift more quickly and to concentrate or disperse more quickly from or to lower levels of distinction (organizational and environmental) without losing cohesion of overall effort.
- Put another way, Blitz and Guerrillas "get inside adversary's" Observation-Decision-Action or Mind-Time-Space framework.

### Result

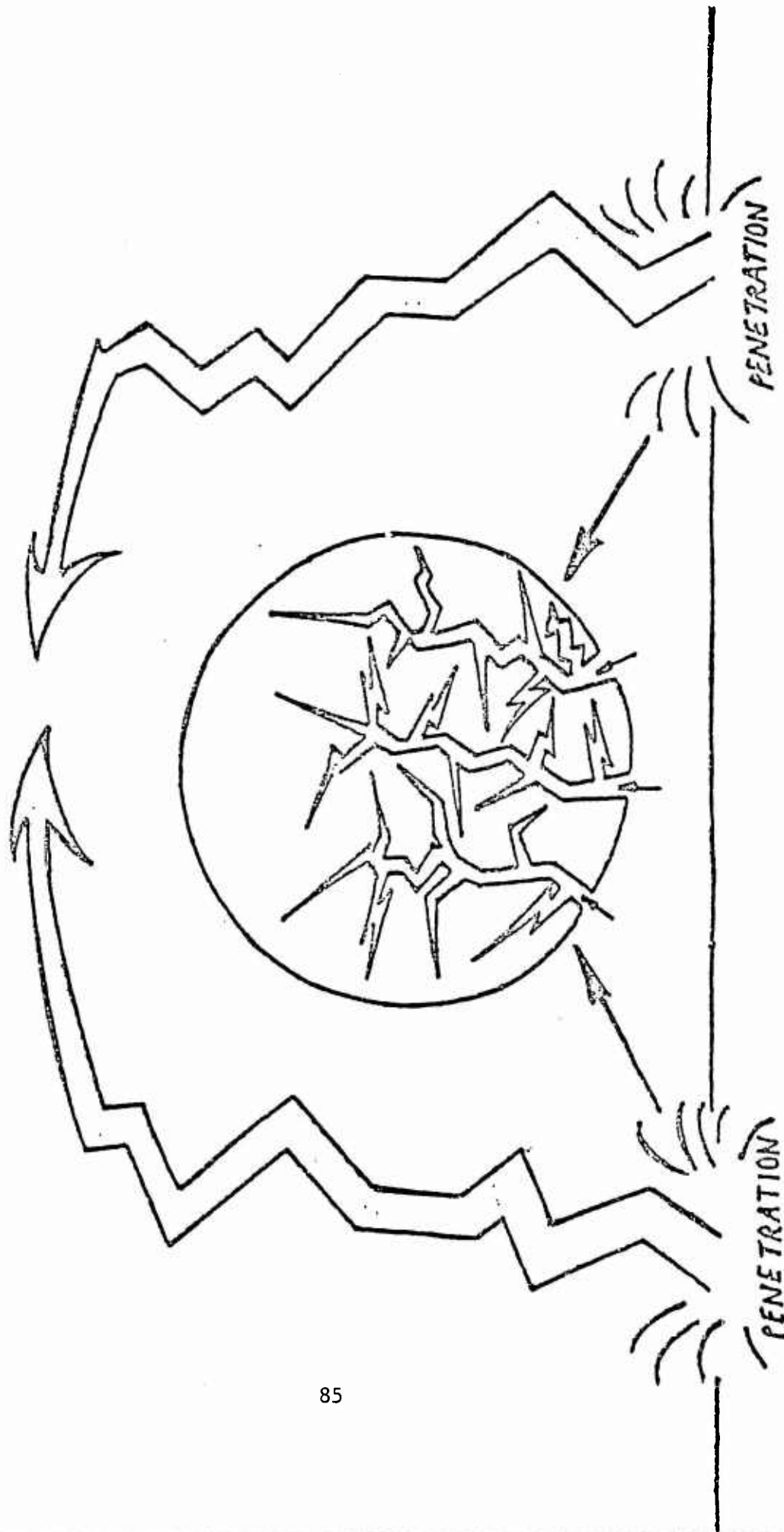
- Such activity by Blitz and Guerrillas make them appear ambiguous (unpredictable) and awesome which magnifies into confusion, disorder and panic (among their adversaries) to shatter cohesion, produce paralysis and bring about collapse -- a notion implied by Sun Tzu around 400 BC and more recently recognized by J.F.C. Fuller after observing the impact of Ludendorff's infiltration tactics in 1918.



NATURAL QUESTIONS?

- How can we defend against or counter the Blitz?
- How can we defend against or counter the Guerrilla Movement?

*"Where are the Weaknesses  
of the Blity?"*



KEY POINT

Difficult to sustain fast tempo and maintain cohesion of Blitz effort when forced to repeatedly and rapidly shift concentration of strength against weakness.

## COUNTER-BLITZ

(Variation of German Experiences During WWII)

### Posture

- Emphasize intelligence, reconnaissance (air and ground) and set-up screen of forward outposts and patrols to report on adversary activity and warn of any impending or actual incursions.
- Deploy and disperse reconnaissance and mobile anti-tank infantry/armored teams together with artillery in region behind screen so that they can inconspicuously/quickly move laterally and forward to focus and shift local main efforts against adversary thrust(s).
- Place armored teams, as mobile reserve, in echelon behind recce, anti-tank infantry/armored and artillery so that they can easily focus effort, and quickly move-in to decapitate any local breakthrough -- or push-off for a Blitz counterstroke.

87

### Action

- Employ air and fast moving mobile/armored reconnaissance teams to determine direction/strength of thrust(s) and to continuously harass by repeated delaying actions and hit-and-run attacks in order to slow momentum and erode cohesion of Blitz attack.
- Inconspicuously move-in with high speed mobile anti-tank infantry/armored teams, together with air and artillery support, to stiffen favorable defense positions and combine the ambush with repeated sudden/sharp (but short) flank counter-attacks to channel as well as drain-away momentum and break-up cohesion of Blitz thrust(s).
- Concentrate swift armored combat forces (held in reserve) and use with air to rapidly drive a shallow and/or deep flank counterstroke in order to envelop and roll-up Blitz offensive in detail (counterstroke launched while adversary is moving forward).

### Idea

- Smash Blitz offensive by inconspicuously using fast tempo/fluidity-of-action and cohesion of counter-Blitz combat teams as basis for shifting of forces and quick concentration of air and ground effort to throttle momentum, shatter cohesion, and envelop Blitz in order to destroy adversary's capacity to resist.

NOTE

Counter-Blitz imposes a greater stress than Blitz upon the cohesion of friendly combat teams -- since Counter-Blitzers must be able to react more inconspicuously and quicker than Blitz counterparts.

WHERE IS THE WEAKNESS OF GUERRILLA EFFORT?

Guerrillas need cause and support of population that is dependent upon regime's corruption and incompetence.

COUNTER-GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN  
(a la Mikhail Tukhachevsky and Ramon Magsaysay)

Action

- Undermine guerrilla cause and destroy their cohesion by demonstrating integrity and competence of government to represent and serve needs of people -- rather than exploit and impoverish them for the benefit of a greedy elite.\*
- Take political initiative to root out and visibly punish corruption. Select new leaders with recognized competence as well as popular appeal. Ensure that they deliver justice, eliminate grievances and connect government with grass roots.\*
- Infiltrate guerrilla movement as well as employ population for intelligence about guerrilla plans, operations and organization.
- Deploy administrative talent, police, and roving counter-guerrilla teams into affected regions to inhibit guerrilla communication, coordination and movement as well as minimize their contact with local inhabitants.
- Take and keep initiative by relentless pursuit. Employ (guerrillas' own) tactics of reconnaissance, infiltration, surprise hit-and-run, and sudden ambush to keep roving bands off-balance and to make base areas untenable.
- Emphasize capture and conversion to government cause -- instead of harsh anti-population reprisal measures and "body count" -- as basis to undermine guerrilla influence.
- Visibly identify central government with local political/economic/social reform in order to connect government with hopes and needs of people, thereby gain their support and confirm government legitimacy.

Idea

- Destroy guerrilla cohesion and break their hold upon the population via political initiative that demonstrates moral legitimacy and vitality of government and by relentless military operations that emphasize stealth/fast tempo/fluidity-of-action and cohesion of overall effort.

\* If you cannot realize such a political program, you might consider changing sides!

CURRENT EXAMPLE

Recognition of Problem

Excerpt from Parade Magazine (8 May 77)

...No more ostentatious displays of wealth in South Korea -- that's the latest word from President Park Chung Hee.

Park is a noted champion of capitalism, but he is wise enough to know that vulgar displays of wealth emphasize the tremendous gap between the rich and poor of his country and thereby breed resentment.

He has therefore issued an order banning the wealthy from building large residences. Those who already occupy such mansions will move into more modest buildings.

Also in effect are orders banning extravagant parties, funerals, weddings, and anniversary celebrations. "These affairs stimulate resentment," Park declares, "and hinder the promotion of national unity between all classes of people."

Dictator Park, a peasant's son, apparently was shocked by the ostentatious display of wealth when he recently toured Dongbingo, a wealthy suburb of Seoul. He saw private homes equipped with swimming pools, elevators, saunas, and the latest electronic gadgetry.



SYNTHESIS

PATTERN FOR SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS

- Goal
- Plan
- Action
- Support
- Command

PATTERN FOR SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS

Goal ● Deprive adversary of his capacity for independent action.

Plan ● Probe and test adversary to unmask strengths, weaknesses, maneuvers, and intentions.

● Shape ambiguous posture with many branches } to manipulate or undermine adversary's plans and actions.

● Shape adversary's perception of the world

● Select initiative (or response) that is least expected.

● Establish focus of main effort together with other (related) effort and pursue direction that permits many branches and threatens alternative objectives.

● Move along paths of least resistance (to reinforce success).

● Disrupt adversary's connections, centers, and activities that provide cohesion and permit coherent observation - orientation - decision - action.

Action

● Observe, orient, decide, and act more inconspicuously, more quickly, and with more fluidity, without losing cohesion of overall effort, as basis to repeatedly and unexpectedly focus main effort against weakness, apply other effort to tie-up or drain-away adversary strength, and shift these efforts to keep or gain initiative.

Support

● Superior mobile communications } to maintain cohesion of overall effort and sustain appropriate pace of operations within available resources.

● Only essential logistics

Command

● Decentralize, in a tactical sense, to encourage lower level commanders to shape, direct, and take the sudden/sharp actions necessary to quickly exploit opportunities as they present themselves.

● Centralize, in a strategic sense, to formulate policy, sketch flexible plans, allocate resources, and shift focus of overall effort.

IMPRESSIONS

- Plan and Action statements suggest that we are trying to:
  - Run-up the number of environmental states
  - Shape arrangement of states
  - Fabricate focus of these states
  - Compress time
  
- Intentions that make-up Plan cannot happen without application of transients that make-up Action.

FIRST IMPRESSION

● A synthesis of these Plan and Action statements suggests a rediscovery of the 18th Century or Napoleonic notion of Grand Tactics -- "tactical velocity mated with strategic deception".

or as we shall put it:

● Magnify the number, shape the arrangement, and fabricate the focus of environmental states (real and imagined, clear and obscure) that an adversary must consider, then reshape arrangement, shift focus and compress the time within which an adversary must react, or adapt, to cope with these transient states.

SECOND IMPRESSION

Transients

Observe, Orient, Decide  
and Act more inconspicuously,  
more quickly, and with more  
fluidity...

or put another way

Get inside adversary's  
Observation-Orientation-Decision-Action  
or Mind-Time-Space

Permits  
one to

Intentions

- Probe and test adversary to unmask strengths, weaknesses, maneuvers, and intentions
- Manipulate or undermine adversary's plans and actions by
  - shaping ambiguous posture with many branches
  - shaping his perception of the world
- Select initiative (or response) that is least expected
- Establish focus of main effort together with other (related) effort and pursue direction that permits many branches and threatens alternative objectives
- Move along paths of least resistance (to reinforce success)
- Disrupt adversary's connections, centers and activities that provide cohesion and permit coherent observation-orientation-decision-action
- Focus main effort against weakness, apply other effort to tie-up or drain-away adversary strength and shift these efforts to keep or gain initiative
- Generate uncertainty, confusion, disorder, panic, chaos,... to shatter cohesion, produce paralysis and bring about collapse
- Become an extraordinary commander

NOW ALTOGETHER

Strategy

- Shatter cohesion, produce paralysis, and bring about adversary collapse by generating uncertainty, confusion, disorder, panic chaos...

Grand Tactics

- Magnify the number, shape the arrangement, and fabricate the focus of environmental states (real and imagined, clear and obscure) that an adversary must consider, then reshape arrangement, shift focus and compress the time within which an adversary must react, or adapt, to cope with these transient states.

Tactics

- Observe, orient, decide, and act more inconspicuously, more quickly, and with more fluidity, without losing cohesion of overall effort, as basis to repeatedly and unexpectedly focus main effort against weakness, apply other effort to tie-up or drain-away adversary strength, and shift these efforts to keep or gain initiative.

or put another way

- Observe, Orient, Decide, and Act inside adversary's Mind-Time-Space framework.

A SENSIBLE GRAND STRATEGY

- Should support national goal.
- End conflict on favorable terms.
- Ensure that conflict and peace terms do not provide seeds for (unfavorable) future conflict.



GRAND STRATEGY

Essence

- Shape pursuit of national goal so that potential adversaries realize some benefits and are empathetic toward our success.

Basis

- An appreciation for our underlying self-interests and our potential adversaries' obsessions.

## PATTERN

### National Goal

- Improve our capacity for independent action

### Grand Strategy

- Shape pursuit of national goal so that potential adversaries realize some benefits and are empathetic toward our success

### Strategic Aim

- Deprive adversary of his capacity for independent action

### Strategy

- Shatter cohesion, produce paralysis, and bring about adversary collapse by generating uncertainty, confusion, disorder, panic, chaos....

### Grand Tactics

- Magnify the number, shape the arrangement, and fabricate the focus of environmental states (real and imagined, clear and obscure) that an adversary must consider, then reshape arrangement, shift focus and compress the time within which an adversary must react, or adapt, to cope with these transient states.

### Tactics

- Observe, orient, decide, and act more inconspicuously, more quickly, and with more fluidity, without losing cohesion of overall effort, as basis to repeatedly and unexpectedly focus main effort against weakness, apply other effort to tie-up or drain-away adversary strength, and shift these efforts to keep or gain initiative.

or put another way

- Observe, orient, decide and act inside adversary's mind-time-space.

NOTE

On one hand, the National Goal and Grand Strategy as expressed appear to be in disharmony with the Strategic Aim, Strategy, Grand Tactics, and Tactics notions that make-up the pattern. On the other hand, application of these latter four strategic and tactical notions permit real leadership to avoid high attrition, avoid widespread destruction, and gain a quick victory. This combined with shattered cohesion, paralysis, and rapid collapse demonstrated by the existing adversary regime make it appear corrupt, incompetent, and unfit to govern. Under these circumstances, leaders and statesmen offering generous terms can form the basis for a viable peace. In this sense, the first two and the latter four notions can be in harmony with one another.

Message

Need a force that is superior to any potential adversary in terms of:

- Inconspicuousness
- Quickness
- Fluidity
- Cohesion

Question

Does the present or planned force possess these qualities?