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French military thought as seen by the Americans

Ferdinand Foch and the Principles of War

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Suggested translation from the original article :

There are three reasons why Americans should study French military strategy.

The first is that the French army has an intellectual tradition that goes back at least to the 18th century, and more than a few French military theorists are inspired by and enrich this tradition. Their work is sophisticated and they write well.

Second, the disastrous losses that Americans too often associate with the French military and that encourage them to dismiss the French should do the opposite: the failures are worth reading. Every generation of French officers since the catastrophe of the Franco-Prussian War has had to face failure and reflect seriously on the challenges of modern warfare.

Thirdly, the French view everything in terms of scarcity, which means that they assume that they must compensate for the lack of resources with intelligence and courage, and by making the most of what they have.

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