

Ku zrodlom teorii strategii [On the Origins of Strategic Theory]

Review of the monograph by Vladimir Kvint.

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Vladimir Kvint. "Ku zrodlom teorii strategii. 200-lecie wydania pracy teoretycznej generacha Jominiego" ["On the Origins of Strategic Theory. Understanding the Prescient Wisdom of General Jomini, 200 Years Later"]. — Lublin, Poland: TEKST, 2018.

The release of a book which furthers the development of humanity is always an event!

Last year the publishing center of the North-West Institute of Management of the Russian Presidential Academy published this unique book with comments from academician Dr. Vladimir L. Kvint. "The Art of War", written by the adviser to five emperors, the Baron and Full General of the Russian Empire Antoine-Henri Jomini, was lost for two centuries. Thanks to Dr. Vladimir Kvint's efforts, the book has been found and returned to readers.

For more than three thousand years political leaders and commanders used the ideas of strategic nature in their important decisions, all the while not having the rules of strategic science. The term "strategy" began to find its semantic outlines only at the beginning of the 19th century. In the 20th century strategic thought began to be used in business, creating a new direction in research and pedagogy.

In Russia, the origin of a strategic thought is closely connected with the unique identity of General Henri Jomini, the adviser to five emperors of France and Russia. His work "The Art of War" became the first source of universal strategic rules.

Jomini began writing his unique book proving the theory of strategy during his stay in Poland — in Poznan in 1806. In 1807, a final complemented edition was translated from French into Russian and published in St. Petersburg. On its second page it is specified: "Printed by Imperial Order". Moreover, this is not accidental; it is specified in several sources that in 1817 General Jomini read the manuscript of his book to the emperor Alexander "far into the night". Kvint is sure that this very moment 200 years ago in St. Petersburg when the book was published, gave rise to the emergence of strategy as a theory.

Henri Jomini's publication remained almost forgotten and was not re-published until 2017 when the North-Western Institute of Management of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration published Dr. Kvint's work "On the Origins of Strategic Theory". In this work, Vladimir has written paginal commentaries to this remarkable book by Jomini to facilitate understanding of the practical implications of the General's recommendations and experience for use in the modern practice of a strategizing for a wide range of readers.

A year after its initial Russian publication, Lublin publishing house TEKST (Poland), released the Polish translation of Vladimir Kvint's book. As in the Russian edition of the book, the Polish edition contains General Jomini's original work along with com-

mentary from world renown theorist and practitioner of strategy, Dr. Vladimir Kvint. He is not only a scholar, but also chronologically the first Honorable Doctor of our Institute.

A large contribution to the preparation of this book was made by its translator, and the author of the preface to the Polish edition, historian and diplomat Dr. Vladyslav Sokolovsky, as well as Roman Genkin, who supported the publication of the book from the very beginning.

I congratulate all polish readers on this remarkable book, which is in fact, the work of two strategists!

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