

Review of: "Shrewdness, coup d'œil, and genius: the cognitive attributes of the consummate general (Greek antiquity, Byzantine era, modern times)"

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The article makes an excellent and convincing argument that the concept of *ankhínoia* in antique military treatises corresponds to the 18th century concept of *coup d'oeil*, a claim originally made by Everett Wheeler. In doing so, the author also provides a very exhaustive and informative presentation of how the two concepts have been conceived by various thinkers, a task that is obviously not made easier by the incoherent ways in which they have been described, sometimes by the same writers. Considering that especially von Clausewitz's tenets continue to affect military thinking even today, the article presents a very informative description of the context in which the concept of *coup d'oeil* was formed. Although Jean-Charles de Folard, the originator of this particular meaning of *coup d'oeil*, was familiar with Greek treatises, the conclusion that it is not simply imported from these texts seems plausible.

An aspect that may deserve some attention is the presentation of the scope of the article; the introduction implies a further conceptual analysis "*examined...in two stages. Before considering the relationship between coup d'oeil and strategic intuition, it is important to set the stage for the analysis by carefully examining Wheeler's hypothesis.*" Hence, it could be expected that such an analysis will follow the initial comparison of treatises from the two time periods, but on page 25, this is considered "*...a question that will be addressed in a future essay on the relationship between coup d'oeil of action and strategic intuition.*" A brief initial clarification of the article's specific research aim will prevent such misunderstandings.

Nevertheless, the examination of previous writings provides a solid foundation for a further analysis regarding the nature of the underlying phenomenon, which of course could optionally be developed in the article. Whereas certain features attributed by various writers may perhaps be nonessential and dependent on the context in which the writers have used it, other themes occur more consistently, such as fast intuition promoting adequate decisions in unfamiliar or unique situations. Although expert intuition is considered different from strategic intuition, *coup d'oeil* and "genius" as von Clausewitz describes it, emphasizing the particular nature of military knowledge,[1] seems very similar to "mastery", as described by the "Dreyfus model,"[2] which has frequently been used to describe development of expertise. Yet, both von Clausewitz's concept and the notion of strategic intuition goes a step further, and hence, could strategic intuition simply be considered an intuition that transcends the limitations of the context in which expertise was acquired, enabling it to be applied to truly new and unfamiliar situations? I am aware that such questions are better addressed in the forthcoming essay, but the manuscript nevertheless has a potential for further analysis that could be developed, should the author

wish to do so.

Even without revisions, the article is in my opinion very valuable, provides important insights, and should definitely be published.

[1] Carl von Clausewitz, *Vom Kriege. Vollständige Ausgabe der acht Bücher* (Berlin: Michael Holzinger, 2016 [1832]), 56-57, 78-89.

[2] Stuart E. Dreyfus & Hubert L. Dreyfus, *A Five-stage Model of the Mental Activities Involved in Directed Skill Acquisition* (University of California, Berkeley, 1980); see also Jørgen Weidemann Eriksen, "Should Soldiers Think before They Shoot?" *Journal of Military Ethics* 9, No. 3 (2010), 195-218.