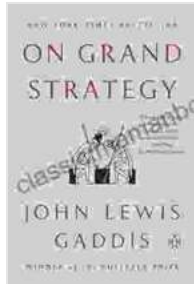


# On Grand Strategy: A Review by John Lewis Gaddis



## On Grand Strategy by John Lewis Gaddis

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1092 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 383 pages



In his book *On Grand Strategy*, John Lewis Gaddis argues that grand strategy is not a science but an art, and that it is more about understanding the world than predicting the future. Gaddis examines the grand strategies of six great powers over the past two centuries, and he identifies six common elements of successful grand strategy: purpose, unity, resources, will, leadership, and flexibility.

**Purpose** is the most important element of grand strategy. A clear and compelling purpose gives a nation the motivation to pursue its goals, even in the face of adversity. Gaddis argues that the most successful grand strategies are those that are based on a shared sense of national identity and destiny. For example, the United States' grand strategy of westward expansion was based on the belief that the country had a manifest destiny to spread democracy and freedom across the continent.

**Unity** is essential for a successful grand strategy. A nation divided against itself cannot hope to achieve its goals. Gaddis argues that the most successful grand strategies are those that are supported by a broad consensus within the country. For example, the United States' grand strategy of containment during the Cold War was supported by both Democrats and Republicans.

**Resources** are necessary for a successful grand strategy. A nation must have the resources—economic, military, and diplomatic—to pursue its goals. Gaddis argues that the most successful grand strategies are those that are based on a sound understanding of the nation's strengths and weaknesses. For example, the United States' grand strategy of global leadership is based on the country's economic and military power.

**Will** is the determination to achieve one's goals. A nation must have the will to see its grand strategy through to the end, even in the face of setbacks. Gaddis argues that the most successful grand strategies are those that are pursued with determination and resolve. For example, the United States' grand strategy of defeating Nazi Germany was pursued with unwavering determination, even after the setbacks of Pearl Harbor and the Battle of the Bulge.

**Leadership** is essential for a successful grand strategy. A nation must have leaders who are able to articulate a clear and compelling vision for the future, and who are able to inspire the people to follow them. Gaddis argues that the most successful grand strategies are those that are led by visionary and charismatic leaders. For example, the United States' grand strategy of global leadership was led by visionary presidents such as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan.

**Flexibility** is essential for a successful grand strategy. The world is constantly changing, and a nation must be able to adapt its grand strategy to changing circumstances. Gaddis argues that the most successful grand strategies are those that are flexible and adaptable. For example, the United States' grand strategy of global leadership has been adapted to meet the challenges of the Cold War, the War on Terror, and the rise of China.

Gaddis concludes that grand strategy is an essential tool for nations that seek to achieve their goals in the world. However, he cautions that grand strategy is not a magic bullet, and it cannot guarantee success. He argues that the best way to ensure the success of a grand strategy is to have a clear and compelling purpose, to build a strong foundation of unity and resources, to develop the will to see the strategy through to the end, to provide strong leadership, and to be flexible and adaptable in the face of changing circumstances.

*On Grand Strategy* is a must-read for anyone who is interested in international relations, foreign policy, or history. Gaddis provides a clear and concise overview of the history of grand strategy, and he identifies the key elements of successful grand strategy. He also provides a number of case studies that illustrate how grand strategy has been used in practice. *On Grand Strategy* is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to understand the world we live in and the challenges that we face.

**On Grand Strategy** by John Lewis Gaddis

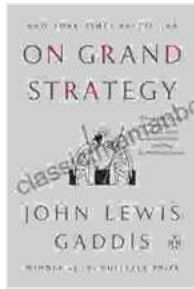
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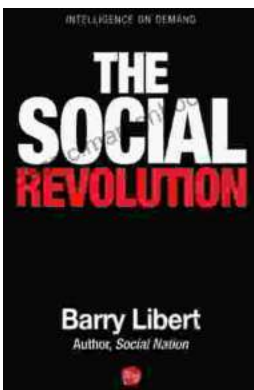
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