





"the only practical advice that we were given was that every company should send teams of people to country hotels every year to think about the future"

Participant on a fifteen part course on business strategy



"The talent of the strategist is to identify the decisive point and to concentrate everything on it, removing forces from secondary fronts and ignoring lesser objectives"

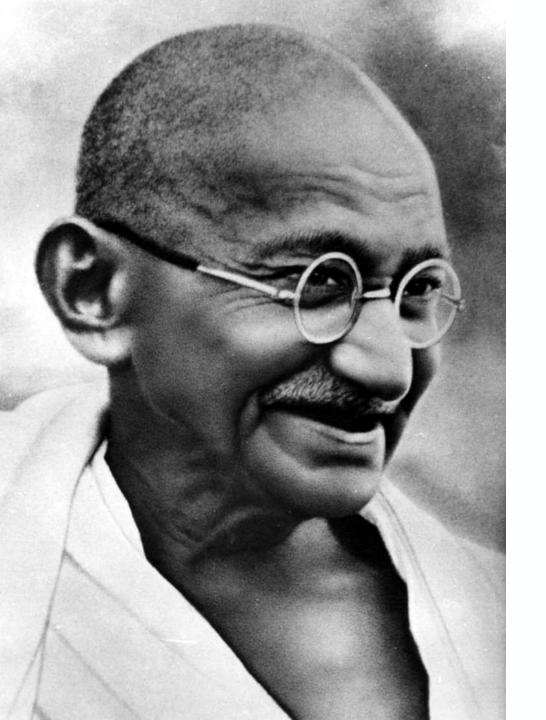
CARL VON CLAUSEWITZ

"The determination of the basic long-term goals and objectives of the enterprise and the adoption of courses of action and the allocation of resources necessary for carrying out these goals"

ALFRED CHANDLER

"Probably the commonest sense in which the word strategy is employed today is as a synonym for expensive"

JOHN KAY



MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI

1869-1948

Why was non-violence a strategy?

- Was directed didn't just happen
- Coherent exercise with clear goals
- Consciously considered other options
- Was designed specifically to influence the choices of his opponents





<THREAD> I'm now hearing this meme that says Obama, Clinton, et al. are doing nothing, just gave up.

Guys. It's time for some game theory.

RETWEETS

5,337

LIKES

10,795















8:28 PM - 11 Dec 2016



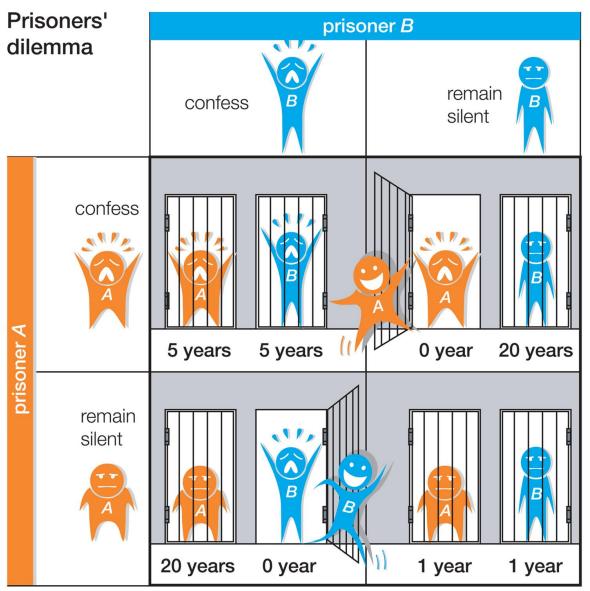


11K

"Real life consists of bluffing, of little tactics of deception, of asking yourself what is the other man going to think I mean to do. And that is what games are about in my theory."

JOHN VON NEUMANN

The prisoner's dilemma



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The Washington Post FINAL

State Sta Kennedy Orders Blockade of Cuba As Reds Build Nuclear Bases There; U.S. Will Sink Defiant Arms Ships U. S., Russia President Heeds
New Facing
Test of Will
History's Lesson
By Missles

And Search Cargo Craft

President Calls Off Glab Sends All Campaign Trips Stock Prices

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC Today's Chockle

Will Sink President's Cuba Stand Far-Reaching Ships That

Southeast Gears To



President Acts

Island's A-Missile Build-Up Cited



Red Ships Face Search or Sinking



- Explicit strategic model was of escalation
- Communication: all communication during the crisis was by military maneuver
- Resolved by a phone call between the leaders
- Exposed how poorly each side really understood the other



 Game theory persists to the present day with nukes

 Trident is an explicitly "game theoretical" resource because it is a second strike weapon



During 20th Century, much of *strategy* meant *competing better*.

- Squeezing margins
- Competing harder
- Constant improvement

Lots of corporate strategy is full of stories from this approach:

CF. FORD, TAYLORISM, DRUCKER, THE RAND CORPORATION, MBAS



Here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast.

Alice Through the Looking-Glass

Marginal gains are not enough, because they can be copied

Three big areas that now comprise a lot of modern business strategy:







Culture & Values

Vision statement?

That, believe it or not, is a strategy.

Alliances



All of these moves come from game theory - developing non-zero sum games. "Coopetition".



Why compete, expensively, when you can share the profit, and potentially generate even more?





People think negotiation is haggling: winning somehow, probably by beating someone else.

That is not a negotiation. That is an argument.

Negotiation is really about:

- Listening
- Timing
- Control of the process
- Knowing and understanding your BATNA

Rarely are there any secrets, there are only misunderstanding



Brexit is a wonderful example of strategic failure

HMG approach

- Referendum called to resolve party differences
- Article 50 terrible vehicle for UK purposes
 - EU control timing
 - EU control process
 - No leverage

HMG conduct of A50 process

- No objective
- "Playing the man, not the ball"
- Needlessly destroying goodwill
- Hilarious BATNA posturing
- Hilarious claims about our Sooper Sekrit negotiating position

Thank you for listening

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