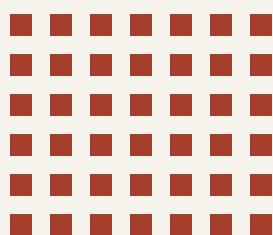


The Art *of War.*

虚实

CONCENTRATION & DISPERSION



42 RESOURCES



30 RESOURCES

Read. Explore. Reflect.

A source passage, a worked diagram, and space to think about what changes when resources are brought together in one place.

This free sample is a working edition. The source wording is the creator's; the explanatory material is an editorial draft awaiting review. The full study companion is still in preparation.

A closer reading.

CHAPTER 06 / ORIGINAL CHINESE

故形人而我无形，则我专而敌分。

ENGLISH TRANSLATION / CREATOR'S MANUSCRIPT

Therefore, by exposing the enemy's offensive and defensive forms and hiding one's offensive and defensive forms, one can concentrate one's forces and disperse the enemy's forces;

Source: the creator's supplied Chinese text and English manuscript, Chapter 6. The English wording above is reproduced without revision.

EDITORIAL READING NOTE

Notice the relationship between revealing and concealing positions, and the possibility of concentrating and dispersing resources. The surrounding passage makes this a question about conditions, rather than a permanent description of one side as strong.

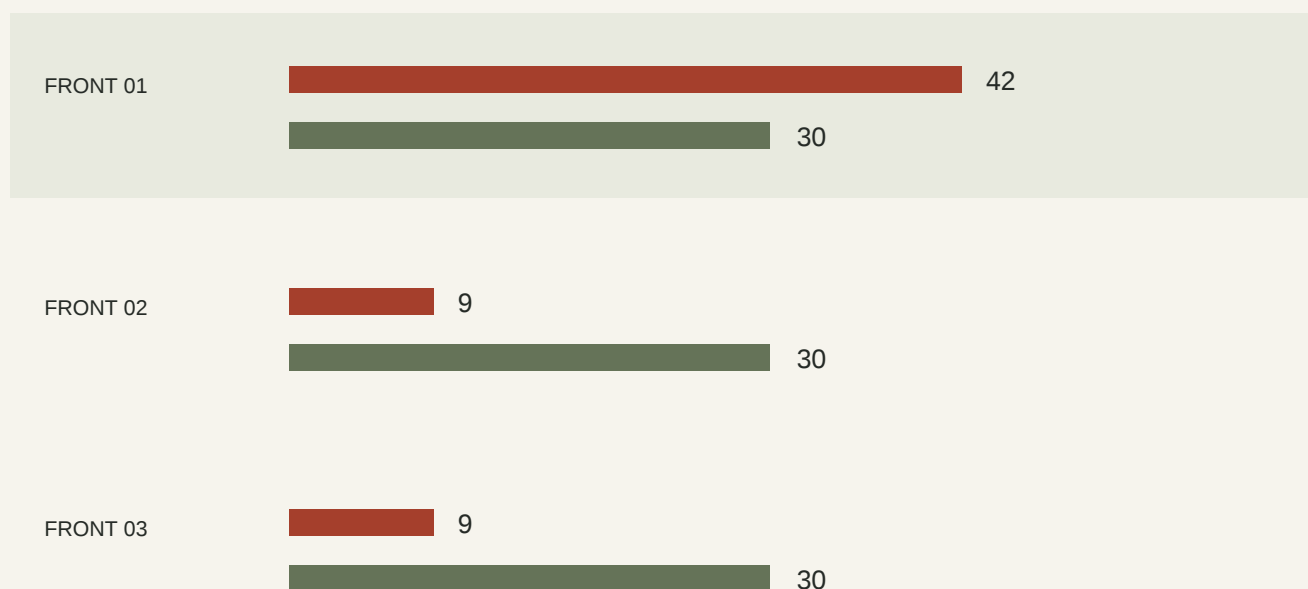
The next page isolates one piece of that relationship: distribution. It holds the other side still so that the arithmetic is visible. Real circumstances are not held still in this way.

Read the full chapter online before treating the excerpt as a rule. The independent translations are working manuscripts, not an edition that has completed independent scholarly review.

The same total.

A different distribution.

You have 60 interchangeable units. The other side has 90, equally divided across three fronts. Put 70% of your units at Front 01.



VERMILION: YOUR UNITS / GREEN: THE OTHER SIDE

1.40 : 1

AT FRONT 01

$$(60 \times 70\%) / (90 / 3) = 1.40$$

Nothing has been added. Each of your other fronts now has 9 units against 30. The stronger position at one front comes with a thinner allocation elsewhere.

Assumptions: resources are interchangeable; fronts are equally accessible; totals remain fixed; the other side does not react. No travel time, terrain, or uncertainty is modeled. This ratio is not a probability of success, and the equation is not a formula from the source text.

Before you carry *the idea elsewhere.*

01 Name the tradeoff.

What gets less attention or support when you concentrate resources in one place?

02 Change a condition.

If the other side could move immediately, which assumption in the example would stop holding?

03 Examine an analogy.

Choose a project you know. What might the resource units represent, and why might they not be interchangeable?

RETURN ONLINE

Open Explorations > Concentration & dispersion in The Art of War reading companion. Then return to Chapter 06 and read the surrounding passage.