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From the Archives: Read Them and Laugh

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From the Archives

Read Them and Laugh

“Battle (n.) – A method of untying with the teeth a political knot that would not yield to the tongue.

Cannon (n.) – An instrument employed in the rectification of national boundaries.

Peace (n.) – In international affairs, a period of cheating between two periods of fighting.”

—Ambrose Bierce, *Devil's Dictionary*



“We pay a high price for being intelligent. Wisdom hurts.”

—Euripides, *Electra*



“My ambition was to write a book that would not be forgotten in two or three years, and which anyone interested in the subject would certainly take up more than once.”

—Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*



“You will usually find that the enemy has three courses open to him, and of these he will adopt the fourth.”

—Helmuth von Moltke



“I hate quotations. Tell me what you know.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Journals*

Sources: Robert A. Fitton, ed., *Leadership: Quotations from the Military Tradition* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1990); Robert Debs Heinl, Jr., *Dictionary of Military and Naval Quotations* (Annapolis, Md.: United States Naval Institute, 1966); Peter G. Tsouras, ed., *The Greenhill Dictionary of Military Quotations* (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 2000); Peter G. Tsouras, ed., *Warrior's Words: A Quotation Book* (London: Arms and Armour Press, 1992); Justin Wintle, ed., *The Dictionary of War Quotations* (New York: The Free Press, 1989).