

attack; when double their strength we should take a vital with a detachment; when equally matched only a superior general

should engage a faction of their force; and if inferior in all respects, we must maintain the capability of eluding them. A small army may put up

an obstinate fight but in the end it will be pushed aside by a larger army. In the general resides the military security of

the people. If he is complete in every way, the people will be safe, but if he is defective the people are in danger. There are three ways a sovereign

tends to disable his own general: 1 By commanding his general to advance or retreat, being unaware that the army is not able to

obey his commands. This hobbles his own general. 2 By his demanding the soldiers be governed with benevolence and righteousness as he

administers the state, being ignorant of the expediency and flexibility necessary to control an army. This distracts the

soldiers' minds from their general. 3 By his granting rank to officers in his army based on their civil status and not with

regard to their military ability. This shakes the confidence of the soldiers in their officers' leadership. When the general is

hobbled, or the men's minds are distracted from him, or they lack confidence in their officers' leadership, trouble is sure to come from