



## A Spy's Guide to Strategy

*John Braddock*

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When you're a spy, life is complex. There are long games and short games and games that don't matter. There are enemies, allies and allies who become enemies. There's ambiguity, lying and betrayal. It's on you to make sense of it. Just you.

You decide what to do. You take action. Just you.

Which means you need a framework for making sense of the world. A framework that takes into account enemies and allies. A framework that puts them on the same field. A framework with predictive power. Most importantly, a framework that you can take with you. A framework that fits in your head.

A Spy's Guide To Strategy has a framework for strategy.

It's applied to World War I, the "War On Terror," and a spy's interactions with a lying source.

It starts with game theorists' First Rule Of Strategy.

A simple rule to help you handle the complex:

"Look forward and reason backward."

## A Spy's Guide to Strategy Details

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Author : John Braddock

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## From Reader Review A Spy's Guide to Strategy for online ebook

### **Daniel Ward says**

#### **Useful and enjoyable**

Enjoyed this. Strategy, useful in all of life. Even if you are not a Spy. Learn to reason backwards from your desired end game. Much practical knowledge included. I got the audio too. A nice listen.

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### **Denis Bukin says**

This book must be read to the end. Even if the "rough" language is annoying, the content is worth it. The author is the one who is compelled to break any doubts by a decision, even if risky, but unambiguous and irreversible. Because there is no one further, and there is no one to share responsibility with.

What Braddock writes about is not taught in schools or in universities. And in vain: the art of living among people is more important than professional knowledge. Some learn it "in battle," once hitting a difficult situation, others remain naive until the end of days. A corporation or a small company, a state institution, a department, a political party or a teacher's at school - in order to be successful in them, one must think, take into account the interests, build their strategy. People often hide their interests, lie, promise and do not justify promises. How to think in such a way as not to correct errors, but to predict the situation; do not get irritated about unjustified expectations, and soberly assess others and maintain psychological comfort - that's what this book is about.

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### **Kristjan Velbri says**

"...to do that [succeed], you take risks. You go to risky places. You do dangerous things. It's risky. But you don't do dumb things. You don't put yourself in situations where there's nothing to gain and a lot to lose. You don't play zero-sum games where your best result is zero.

/.../

You choose games where the reward is worth the risk. You choose games you'll win."

This is a quote from the book that both illustrates the style (intentionally economical sentences, which you'll get used to) and the message (accessible game theory, which helps you make sense of the world, and if you take the time, help you think more clearly about the games you are playing).

By the looks of it, the author wasn't pressured to add in lots of filler so expect a short but fulfilling read.

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### **Denis Vasilev says**

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### **Martin says**

An interesting book with several anecdotal insights about global political strategies. That alone made it a worthwhile read for me. Otherwise, it's an adequate review of basic strategy building. Braddock's writing is a little quirky though, and the constant repetition is tedious and frustrating. It caused me to wonder whether it was as a means to punctuate the key tenets of the theory or to pad the word count for some reason.

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### **Emily says**

I'm really loving Braddock's writing style. He captures the essence of strategy (thinking forward and reasoning backward) and applies it to everyday personal situations and geopolitics. I look forward to his next book on negotiating.

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### **Mike says**

This is an interesting, quick read. It presents a framework for thinking about strategy that I had never learned before, so I think it is worth the effort to read.

The strategy works out to determining an endgame (your goal), thinking backward for a strategy and taking action. Thinking backward to determine a strategy involves a series of intermediate, or possibly parallel "games": positive-sum games, zero-sum games, and boss games. Essentially, assembling a series of these games that accurately represent the path to your endgame will guide strategy development, which will then lead to taking action.

Illustrating these pieces of strategy development are the author's experiences and observations in recruiting and running agents in his role as a spy for the CIA, and his analysis of the long-term struggle between the United States and Bin Laden.

The writing style is extremely choppy by design, as the author admits in this book and the precursor "A Spy's Guide to Thinking". According to his research it is a winning formula. It can be distracting if you require good writing to stay engaged, but it is short and not intended to be poetic.

I enjoyed it and will attempt to use the lessons in my attempts to break the illuminati's control on international finance.

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### **Christopher Rae says**

A short book that could have been shorter if it wasn't for some repetitiveness. Author's style of writing is a little jagged but feels like you're listening to a story from a veteran with the bravado turned up a bit. Good overview of game theory and working backwards from the endgame to identify what your opponent might do to achieve their goals and reason through it. Surprisingly insightful into the mind of Bin Laden and the strategies for September 11th and why there may not have been any further attacks as it didn't advance Bin Laden's endgame.

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## **Tom says**

### **Interesting, but overwritten**

The author clearly knows what he is talking about. And his ideas are interesting and useful. However, the book is twice as long as it needs to be. He becomes grossly repetitive, especially in the last third of the book. He needs a good editor.

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## **David Losacano says**

### **Outstanding**

I borrowed this book through kindle unlimited to learn more about different strategies to employ. Primarily physiologically. John Braddock keeps you reading with his great narrative and consistently ties his focus points throughout the entire book fluidly. Must read for military members or business men.

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## **Alia says**

### **Stars**

Despite its senseless hatred for commas, this book is really good. Easy to understand. Makes things plain. Explains allistic hierarchies.

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## **Carol Campbell says**

### **Excellent guide to thinking**

I love books that give me insight and tools, and that have a basis in real experience. This one succinctly does that using the author's life knowledge and skills. It reveals his incisive and practical thinking through real events. After his A Spy's Guide to Thinking and this one, I am a big fan.

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## **Ashley Elsner says**

### **Clear examples of game theory**

This was a very simple look at intro game theory with clear examples accessible to Americans alive at the time. It's very interesting to see how he reasons through the actions.

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**Goktug Oguz says****A bit more harder to follow this time**

A spy's guide to thinking was better to this on to follow the story and see the thinking but I admit that strategy is harder to put easily. Again a book that has practical use if you get it right. Loved this one as well

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**Babak Farrokhi says**

It looked like a powerpoint presentation turned into a book using a computer program. The whole point of this book could be presented as a short article. The writing style was hard to follow. And most of the book was either repetitive or not even about strategy. I fast-forwarded when I was 80% into the book and I am sure I didn't miss anything there.

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