



Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War

By Robert Coram

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Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War By Robert Coram

John Boyd may be the most remarkable unsung hero in all of American military history. Some remember him as the greatest U.S. fighter pilot ever -- the man who, in simulated air-to-air combat, defeated every challenger in less than forty seconds. Some recall him as the father of our country's most legendary fighter aircraft -- the F-15 and F-16. Still others think of Boyd as the most influential military theorist since Sun Tzu. They know only half the story. Boyd, more than any other person, saved fighter aviation from the predations of the Strategic Air Command. His manual of fighter tactics changed the way every air force in the world flies and fights. He discovered a physical theory that forever altered the way fighter planes were designed. Later in life, he developed a theory of military strategy that has been adopted throughout the world and even applied to business models for maximizing efficiency. And in one of the most startling and unknown stories of modern military history, the Air Force fighter pilot taught the U.S. Marine Corps how to fight war on the ground. His ideas led to America's swift and decisive victory in the Gulf War and foretold the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. On a personal level, Boyd rarely met a general he couldn't offend. He was loud, abrasive, and profane. A man of daring, ferocious passion and intractable stubbornness, he was that most American of heroes -- a rebel who cared not for his reputation or fortune but for his country. He was a true patriot, a man who made a career of challenging the shortsighted and self-serving Pentagon bureaucracy. America owes Boyd and his disciples -- the six men known as the "Acolytes" -- a great debt. Robert Coram finally brings to light the remarkable story of a man who polarized all who knew him, but who left a legacy that will influence the military -- and all of America -- for decades to come. ..

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

John Boyd (1927-1997) was a brilliant and blazingly eccentric person. He was a crackerjack jet fighter pilot, a visionary scholar and an innovative military strategist. Among other things, Boyd wrote the first manual on jet aerial combat, was primarily responsible for designing the F-15 and the F-16 jet fighters, was a leading voice in the post-Vietnam War military reform movement and shaped the smashingly successful U.S. military strategy in the Persian Gulf War. His writings and theories on military strategy remain influential today, particularly his concept of the "OODA (Observation, Orientation, Decision, Action) Loop," which all the military services-and many business strategists-use to this day. Boyd also was a brash, combative, iconoclastic man, not above insulting his superiors at the Pentagon (both military and civilian); he made enemies (and fiercely loyal acolytes) everywhere he went. His strange, mercurial personality did not mesh with a military career, making his 24 years in the Air Force (1951-1975) difficult professionally and causing serious emotional problems for Boyd's wife and children. Coram's worthy biography is deeply researched and detailed, down to describing the fine technical points of some of Boyd's theories. A Boyd advocate (he "contributed as much to fighter aviation as any man in the history of the Air Force," Coram notes), Coram does not shy away from Boyd's often self-defeating abrasiveness and the neglect and mistreatment of his long-suffering wife and children, and keeps the story of a unique life moving smoothly and engagingly. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

The late Colonel John Boyd, United States Air Force, began his career as a supremely proficient fighter pilot in the Korean War, after which he went on to develop the concept of energy maneuvering that has been the basis for fighter tactics and designs for 30 years. He proceeded militantly to advocate simpler fighter designs and attracted a group of like-minded civilian and uniformed reformers, known as the Acolytes, who were mostly as unorthodox as he. After his retirement, he developed strategic concepts based on the velocity of attack, which, while they may not be as original as Coram claims, reminded the armed forces of velocity of attack at a time when they direly needed reminding. On the personal front, Boyd, the product of a dysfunctional family, generated another, which doesn't make pretty reading. The sheer mass of information Coram pumps out requires some military knowledge, if only not to be taken in by all of Coram's claims about Boyd, and such knowledgeable readers will most appreciate this study of an American military reformer. *Roland Green*

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Review

"Coram captures the essence of John Boyd. It is all there... Bravo!" -- Ron "Mugs" McKeown, *First Commander of the U.S. Navy's Topgun school*

"Coram has captured the invincible spirit that is John Boyd in all its fury and intensity of purpose and genius." -- *Senator Charles Grassley*

"The military services should welcome more people like Colonel John Boyd." -- *James Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense*

"What a story...Coram tells this unforgettable story with the same passion as the man who lived it. A great read!" -- *William Diehl, author of Eureka*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeff Puckett:

Hey guys, do you want to find a new book to study? Maybe the book with the title Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War suitable to you? The actual book was written by renowned writer in this era. The book entitled Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War is the main of several books this everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimension that you ever know before. The author explained their thought in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to know the core of this reserve. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world within this book.

Erica Dennis:

Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War however doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information may draw you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

Andre Todd:

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Christopher Arnold:

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