Guibert’s *General Essay on Tactics*

Author: Jonathan Abel

“The God of War’ is near to revealing himself, because we have heard his prophet.” So wrote Jean Colin, naming Napoleon the God of War and Jacques-Antoine-Hippolyte, comte de Guibert, as his prophet. Guibert was the foremost philosopher of the Military Enlightenment, dedicating his career to systematizing warfare in a single document. The result was his magnum opus, the *General Essay on Tactics*, which helped to lay the foundation for the success of French armies during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. It is presented here in English for the first time since the 1780s, with extensive annotation and contextualization.

Readership

The *General Essay on Tactics* will appeal to academics, military practitioners, students, and hobbyists interested in military history, the Military Enlightenment, Napoleon, French history, politics, the Enlightenment, and related fields.

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