

句踐復國

Gou Jian Restored His Country

春秋時期，吳越兩國打仗多年，一開始是越王句踐被吳王夫差打敗，而越王句踐只好對吳王夫差俯首稱臣，於是句踐決定每天要臥薪嘗膽來提醒自己亡國的教訓，經過二十年的暗中培養軍隊的實力後，終於完成備戰的工作，而此時吳國由於奸臣當道，吳王夫差竟然殺死了一代忠臣伍子胥，加上碰到乾旱的天災，造成國內作物枯死，河川乾涸。

In the Spring and Autumn Period, the countries of Wu and Yue were at war with each other for years. In the beginning, it was Gou Jian, the king of Yue, who was defeated by Fu Chai, the king of Wu. So Gou Jian had to bow to Fu Chai and offer himself as Fu Chai's loyal vassal. But Gou Jian was not defeated in spirit. Everyday, Gou Jian tasted the gall bladder to remind himself of the bitter taste of defeat and to reaffirm his desire for revenge. Secretly, he was recruiting and rearming his military again. After 20 years, Gou Jian was finally ready for war again. By this time, Wu was governed by corrupt officials, and its king Fu Chai had grown arrogant and inept. Fu Chai even executed Wu Zih Syu, one of his most loyal officials, because he had suggested that Gou Jian be executed in case Gou Jian seeks to revolt in the future. In addition, Wu was plagued by a severe draught. Crops died and the rivers dried out.



到了這個地步，吳王夫差仍然執迷不悟，十分驕傲狂妄，認為自己可以當上東周諸國的霸主，就帶著國內全部的精兵北上中原，和各國諸侯在黃池會盟，結果造成國內兵力不足，人民生活困苦，一片混亂。



越王勾踐看到這個情形，覺得機會不可多得，便在范蠡和文種的幫助下，一舉大兵將吳國給消滅了。

But even in this time of crisis, Fu Chai refused to come to his senses. He was arrogant enough to believe that he should be the leader of all the countries. So he led his army to the Central Plains of China to meet the other kings. As a result, Wu was left with a minimal army to defend itself, while its people were living in hardship. In sum, Wu was in chaos and extremely vulnerable.

Gou Jian saw this as a golden opportunity. So he launched his attack at Wu and destroyed it, avenging his defeat 20 years ago and restoring the country of Yue.



三十六計之第五計：趁火打劫

Strategy 5: Loot a Burning House

當敵人陷入困境，情況十分危急時，我們要趁機行動，從中取得利益，仗著強勢來攻打弱勢的謀略。

When the enemy is in hardship or in crisis, we must seize the opportunity and exploit the situation to our advantage by attacking him when he is at his weakest.