

Author's Note on Chinese-Language Romanization

The goal is to navigate Chinese-language romanization and related issues as unobtrusively as possible, allowing for the diversity of romanization systems (none of them ideal). Doing so calls for exercise of judgment and common sense. The pinyin romanization system, now the most widely used, is treated as a default choice. Reflecting the fact that the name is now almost as widely known in the West and elsewhere around the world as in China, an exception is made for Sun Tzu himself, where reference will be to Sun Tzu, not to the pinyin romanization Sunzi.

Book, journal, and book chapter titles containing romanized Chinese-language words or proper names will be cited without change regardless of the romanization used (in particular to avoid complicating database searches).

Author names of Chinese heritage appearing in published English-language sources are similarly left unchanged, again regardless of romanization used.

Non-pinyin romanizations present in quotations (e.g., when quoting from various translations of Sun Tzu or works about Sun Tzu) are converted to pinyin. One purpose of doing so is to avoid potential reader confusion when the same words used in the present book's surrounding discussion appear in pinyin.

Because the equivalence

Sunzi (in pinyin romanization) = Sun Tzu (in Wade–Giles romanization), should be clear from context, no romanization substitution will be made in quotations containing a reference to “Sunzi” or “Sun Zi.”