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Five shaolin masters movie

Chang Cheh's magnum opus, Five Shaolin Masters, delves into the destruction of the revered Shaolin temple and its aftermath. As the Iron Triangle nears its demise, Chang Cheh injects fresh talent, Fu Sheng, into the cast. The film commences with five Shaolin heroes - Tsai Te-Chung (Ti Lung), Ma Chao-Hsing (Fu Sheng), Fang Ta-Hung (Meng Fei), Li Shih-Kai (Chi Kuan-Chun), and Hu Te-Ti (David Chiang) - fleeing the Manchu army's devastating attack. With their ideals severely compromised, they face an existential crisis: how to carry on against insurmountable odds. Their initial plan to confront the five Manchu masters responsible for the temple's destruction falters, as they are unable to match the skills of their adversaries and narrowly escape with their lives. The quintet reassesses their strategy, concluding that they must hone their abilities through intense training. As the Manchus relentlessly pursue them, the Ming patriots gear up for a final, decisive strike. Though Five Shaolin Masters has attained classic status among fans, this reviewer felt that Chang Cheh's subject matter had been approached more effectively in films like Men From The Monastery and Shaolin Martial Arts. Despite the exceptional cast and well-worn storyline, there is an impression that Chang Cheh's inspirational ideas of brotherhood and honour are somehow diluted. The underdeveloped nature of these themes degrades the production's merits, as even the quintet of lead characters struggle to embody the Shaolin code. Hu Te-Ti, played by David Chiang, is a disappointingly uninspiring leader, while most other characters are underwritten, save for Ma Chao-Hsing, who brings a delightful mix of arrogance and immaturity to his role. Solid characterisation and good kung fu cinema have not always been a necessity in this genre, but one expects more from a Chang Cheh film. Despite these misgivings, there are still reasons why genre aficionados will enjoy the film - the varied choreography keeps the action interesting, the production values showcase the difference between Shaw Brothers and independent market efforts, and the stellar cast delivers memorable performances. The film cannot live up to its reputation and fails to capitalize on its promise. Friedrich Merz becomes Germany's new Chancellor and is sworn into office alongside his coalition government. India launches missile strikes against Pakistani targets, prompting a retaliatory response from Pakistan. Meanwhile, Zhao Xintong takes home the World Snooker Championship title by defeating Mark Williams. In Singaporean politics, the People's Action Party maintains its hold on a significant majority of parliamentary seats. Other ongoing conflicts include the Gaza war and the M23 campaign in Eastern Africa. Notable individuals who have recently passed away include Samuel Escobar, Christfried Schmidt, Kari Løvaas, Inah Canabarro, Lucas Roy Cooper, Charles Beare, and Nominate an article. Historical events from May 8th include the anniversary of Miguel Hidalgo's birth in Mexico (1753) and Victory in Europe Day (1945). Lady Blanche Arundell is remembered for her role in the First English Civil War, where she led the Royalist garrison at Wardour Castle before its surrender. Other significant events from May 8th include a train derailment near Versailles, France in 1842 that resulted in over 50 deaths and the disappearance of French aviators Charles Nungesser and François Coli during their attempt to fly non-stop to New York in 1927. In Huế, South Vietnam, soldiers opened fire on Buddhist protesters in 1963, sparking the Buddhist crisis. A notable event from May 9th includes the hijacking of Sabena Flight 571 by Black September militants who demanded the release of 315 Palestinians convicted of terrorism charges. In 1643, significant events took place around the world. King Louis XIII of France died at age 41, and his son Louis XIV became king at just four years old. The Taj Mahal was opened to the public on February 6th. In other news, Abel Tasman spotted the islands of Tonga and Fiji. In Europe, the First English Civil War broke out in March, with the first battle taking place in Middlewich. Meanwhile, in Ireland, the Battle of New Ross saw English troops defeat Confederate forces. On April 1st, Amål in Sweden received its city charter, while on April 28th, Francisco de Lucena became a former Portuguese. Note that this paraphrased version maintains the original text's list of historical events and dates but presents them in a more concise and rephrased manner. Historical events unfold with numerous monarchs rising to power and others meeting their demise. May 14 marks a pivotal moment as Louis XIV succeeds his father, Louis XIII, at just four years old, beginning an astonishing 72-year reign that will become the longest recorded by any European monarch. The Thirty Years' War intensifies as France secures a crucial victory against Spain in the Battle of Rocroi on May 19. In North America, the New England Confederation is formed through a military alliance between Massachusetts Bay Colony, Plymouth Colony, Saybrook Colony (Connecticut), and New Haven Colony. A Dutch expedition to Valdivia takes place, with their fleet being spotted off Carelmapu in Chile on June 20. This sets the stage for a series of encounters between the Dutch and local inhabitants, ultimately leading to the establishment of a new colony in the ruins of Valdivia. As the First English Civil War rages on, significant battles take place throughout July, with the Royalists gaining control of Yorkshire and securing a pyrrhic victory over Parliamentarians near Bath. August 24 marks another pivotal moment as a Dutch fleet establishes a new colony in southern Chile. September sees the First Battle of Newbury, where Parliamentary forces secure a strategic victory against the Royalist army led personally by King Charles. The Shunzhi Emperor of China is crowned at just five years old on October 8, following his father's untimely death and a decision made by the Deliberative Council. The remainder of the year is marked by numerous other events, including the abdication of Empress Meishō in Japan, which allows Emperor Go-Kōmyō to ascend to the throne. France suffers a defeat at the hands of the Holy Roman Empire during the Battle of Tuttlingen on November 24. The Torstenson War begins when Swedish Field Marshal Lennart Torstenson's forces enter Danish territory. The year concludes with several notable events, including the sighting and naming of Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean by Captain William Myrnors of the British East India Company ship Royal Mary on December 25. The following people were born on various dates throughout history. January: * Sir Isaac Newton was born on January 4th. * John Hayes and Charles Sackville, an English poet and courtier, were both born in January. February: Charles Fanshawe, a politician, and Johann Kasimir Kolbe von Wartenberg, a Prussian politician, were both born in February. Garcia Felipe de Legazpi y Velasco Altamirano y Albornoz, a Spanish Catholic prelate, was also born that month. March: Fran Krsto Frankopan, a Croatian poet, and Pierre de Langle, a French bishop, were among the notable individuals born in March. Also born that month were Nabeshima Naoyuki, a Japanese daimyō, Fabrizio Spada, an Italian Catholic cardinal, Mary of Jesus de León y Delgado, a Spanish Dominican lay sister, and Louis Moréri, a French priest. April: Charles V, Duke of Lorraine, was born on April 3rd. Nehemiah Jewett, an American colonial politician, and Johann Oswald Harms, a German painter, were also among those born in April. May: Georg Franck von Franckenau, a botanist, and Stephanus Van Cortlandt, the first native-born mayor of New York City, were both born in May. Gabriel Revel, a French painter, was also born that month. July: Johann Ernst von Thun, a Tyrolean bishop, Burchard de Volder, a Dutch mathematician, and Antonio Tarsia, an Italian composer, were among the notable individuals born in July. August: Henri Jules, Prince of Condé, was born on August 29th. William Louis, Prince of Anhalt-Harzgerode, and King Afonso VI of Portugal were also among those born in August. September: Cardinal de Bouillon, a French Catholic cardinal, was born on September 26th. Lorenzo Bellini, an Italian physician, and Jeremiah Dummer, an American silversmith, were both born that month. The following individuals were born or died on specific dates in October and November 1700-1701: - Zinat-un-Nissa, princess of the Mughal Empire - Bahadur Shah I, Mughal Emperor of India - Georg Ludwig Agricola, German composer - John Strype, English historian and biographer - Asano Nagatomo, Japanese daimyō Other notable individuals born on this date include: - Jean Chardin, French jeweller, traveller - René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, French explorer - Eberhard von Danckelmann, Prussian politician - Israel Kolmodin, Swedish hymnwriter and priest - Marie Grubbe, Danish countess Additionally, the following individuals died on this date: - Ilona Zrínyi, Hungarian heroine - Eva Krotova, Khoi translator and interpreter - Hong Taiji - Brilliana, Lady Harley - Paul Guldin, Swiss astronomer and mathematician - Sun Chuanting, Ming dynasty general In other dates in October and November: - John Bois, English scholar - Henry Danvers, 1st Earl of Danby, English noble - Countess Palatine Anna Maria of Neuburg, Duchess of Saxe-Altenburg - Girolamo Frescobaldi, Italian composer - Simon Episcopius, Dutch theologian - Margherita Farnese, Benedictine nun - Christoph Demantius, German composer - Francis de Lucena, Portuguese Secretary of State - Philip III, Landgrave of Hesse-Butzbach - King Louis XIII of France And the following individuals died on this date: - Jean Duquesnoy, Flemish Baroque sculptor in Rome - Robert Pierrepont, 1st Earl of Kingston-upon-Hull, English statesman - Anne Hutchinson, English Puritan preacher - Margaret of Brunswick-Lüneburg, German noble - Philippe de Carteret II - Johann Georg Wirsung, German anatomist - Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork, Irish politician The 16th century was marked by numerous significant individuals who made notable contributions to various fields. Notable English figures from this period include Arthur Bell, an English Franciscan martyr born in 1590, and Henry Clifford, the 5th Earl of Cumberland, who passed away in 1591. Italian artists and historians also emerged during this time, such as Giovanni Baglione, a painter and historian, who died on December 30. Other notable figures from different regions include Maria Pita, a Spanish heroine born in 1565, Sophia Brahe, a Danish astronomer and horticulturalist born in 1556, Henry Claphorne, an English dramatist whose exact date of birth is unknown, and Christopher Baker, who wrote about the scientific revolution from 1600-1720. The 16th century also saw the rise of influential leaders and thinkers. The years 1501-1600 were marked by significant events, including the Renaissance in Italy and Europe. This period also witnessed the exploration of new lands, as seen in the maps created by Amerigo Vespucci and Gerardus Mercator. Some notable dates from this time include the Battle of Newbury I and Christmas Island's history. Additionally, 1643 was a significant year that sparked numerous conflicts and revolutions in Europe. Overall, the 16th century was a transformative period marked by significant cultural, scientific, and historical events that shaped the course of human history. This era saw major developments in science, politics, and colonization. Copernicus challenged the geocentric universe with his heliocentric theory, while Tycho Brahe disproved celestial spheres through observations of a supernova. Galileo became a leading figure in the Scientific Revolution, contributing to physics and astronomy. Meanwhile, European powers began colonizing the Americas, Africa, and Asia, establishing mercantilism as a dominant economic ideology that encouraged wars and imperialism until the 19th century. In Europe, the Reformation weakened papal authority, while Alberico Gentili wrote about public international law. The Thirty Years' War was brewing, fueled by religious conflicts. In the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire expanded, with the sultan claiming caliph status, while Persia experienced a resurgence under the Safavid dynasty. New powers emerged in the Indian subcontinent, including the Mughal Empire, which extended its control over most of South Asia under Emperor Babur and his successors. Japan unified under Toyotomi Hideyoshi after a severe civil war, while China's Ming dynasty became increasingly isolationist, clashing with Japan over Korea and piracy. Christianity spread in Central Africa and Southern Africa, but the Scramble for Africa in the late 19th century would leave most of the continent uncolonized until then. Michelangelo heads back to Florence to start work on the famous statue David. Around this time, the Safavid dynasty reunites Iran under one rule and stays in power until 1736, adopting a Shia branch of Islam. In India, the Portuguese Armada clashes with the Kingdom of Cochín in the First Battle of Cannanore, marking the beginning of Portuguese conflicts in the Indian Ocean. The first African slaves are reported in the New World around this time as well. The Crimean Khanate sacks Sarai in the Golden Horde, ending its existence. Spain defeats France at the Battle of Cerignola, considered to be the first battle won by gunpowder small arms. Leonardo da Vinci starts painting the Mona Lisa and completes it three years later, while Nostradamus is born around this time. A severe drought hits Spain, causing famine throughout the country. Isabella I of Castile passes away, and Joanna of Castile becomes queen. The Sultanate of Sennar is founded in modern-day Sudan by Amara Dunqas. Zhengde Emperor ascends to the throne of the Ming dynasty, marking a significant event in Chinese history. Martin Luther begins his journey to instigating the Reformation as he enters St. Augustine's Monastery at Erfurt, Germany. Sultan Trenggono establishes the first Muslim kingdom in Java called Demak, and many other small kingdoms are formed in other islands to fight against the Portuguese. Each of these local kingdoms introduces their own language as a means of communication and unity among its people. King Afonso I of Kongo wins the battle of Mbanza Kongo, making Catholicism the state religion of Kongo. A significant battle also takes place at Cerignola, where El Gran Capitán finds the corpse of Louis d'Armagnac. In Lisbon, Portugal, a riot against converted Jews results in the massacre of over two thousand people. Christopher Columbus passes away in Valladolid, Spain. Poland is invaded by Tatars from the Crimean Khanate. The first recorded epidemic of smallpox devastates the native Taino population on Hispaniola. Afonso de Albuquerque conquers Hormuz and Muscat among other bases in the Persian Gulf, gaining control of the region at its entrance. The Christian-Islamic power struggle spills over into the Indian Ocean with the Battle of Chaul during the Portuguese-Mamluk War. Michelangelo works on painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling around this time. The defeat of a joint fleet of the Sultan of Gujarat, the Mamlūk Burji Sultanate of Egypt, and the Zamorin of Calicut marks the beginning of Portuguese dominance over the Spice trade and the Indian Ocean. The Portuguese king sends Diogo Lopes de Sequeira to find Malacca, but he faces resistance from Sultan Mahmud Shah. Krishnadevaraya ascends to the throne of Vijayanagara Empire. A great plague hits various parts of Tudor England. Afonso de Albuquerque conquers Goa in India and later Malacca, the capital of the Sultanate of Malacca. Copernicus writes Commentariolus, proclaiming the Sun as the center of the Solar System. The southern region of Navarre was invaded by Castile and Aragon in the past. 1512 saw the rule of the Quth Shahi dynasty over Golconda Sultanate until 1687. In the same year, a Portuguese expedition explored the eastern direction from Malacca to find the Spice Islands. Francisco Serrão led this trip but was shipwrecked on Hitu and managed to win the support of local leaders. 1520s: A decade marked by significant events in history. Magellan led the first expedition to circumnavigate the globe from 1519-1522. Suleiman the Magnificent reigned supreme over the Ottoman Empire, which reached its zenith during this period. Diplomatic missions were exchanged between Europeans and Ethiopians, while Vijayanagara Empire forces defeated their adversaries in battles across India. In Southeast Asia, Sultan Ali Mughayat Shah of Aceh began an expansionist campaign, capturing key territories in present-day Indonesia. The Portuguese established trading posts on the islands of Solor and Malacca. Belgrade fell to the Ottoman Empire, and the Ming dynasty in China faced challenges from the Portuguese and Chinese naval forces. Ferdinand and Magellan's expedition reached the Philippines and was later cut short by his death at the Battle of Mactan. The Jiajing Emperor ascended to power in China, while Rhodes fell to the Ottomans. The Portuguese allied themselves with the rulers of Ternate and began construction of a fort. In Europe, Charles V's forces sacked Rome, and the Swedish kingdom gained independence from the Kalmar Union. The Cacao bean was introduced to Spain by Hernán Cortés. The German Peasants' War took place in the Holy Roman Empire, while Giovanni da Verrazzano explored the Atlantic coast of North America. Ismail I, founder of the Safavid dynasty, died and Tahmasp I succeeded him. Babur's forces defeated the Lodi dynasty at the First Battle of Panipat, marking the end of the Delhi Sultanate. The Ottomans defeated the Kingdom of Hungary at the Battle of Mohács, while the Mughal Empire was founded by Babur. Francis I of France was captured, and the Protestant Reformation began in Sweden. The last ruler of Majapahit fell from power, leading to a transfer of power to Demak under Pangeran's leadership. 1527: Fatah, a Javanese Prince, defeats the Portuguese at Sunda Kelapa Harbor, renaming it Jayakarta, or "a glorious victory," which is recognized as Jakarta's Founding Anniversary. In Mughal India, forces led by Rana Sangha of Mewar are defeated. 1529: The Austrians defeat the Ottoman Empire at the siege of Vienna, while a treaty defines the antimeridian of Tordesillas, attributing the Moluccas to Portugal and the Philippines to Spain. 1529: Imam Ahmad Gurey defeats Ethiopian Emperor Dawit II in the Battle of Shimbira Kure, opening the Ethiopian-Adal War. In Mexico, Spanish conquistadors battle the Otomies of Metziltlan. 1531-1532: The Church of England breaks away from Catholicism and recognizes King Henry VIII as its head. 1531: The Inca Civil War erupts between brothers Atahualpa and Huáscar. 1532: Francisco Pizarro leads the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire, while the first permanent Portuguese settlement is founded in the Americas. 1533: Anne Boleyn becomes Queen of England, and Elizabeth Tudor is born. 1534: Jacques Cartier claims Canada for France, while the Ottomans capture Baghdad from the Safavids. 1534: The Affair of the Placards prompts King Francis I to increase repression against French Protestants. 1535: The Münster Rebellion ends in bloodshed, and the Portuguese deposed Sultan Tabariji of Ternate and send him to Goa where he converts to Christianity. 1536: Catherine of Aragon dies in England, while Anne Boleyn is beheaded for adultery and treason. The year 1542 marked a significant shift in global politics as wars resumed between France's Francis I and Emperor Charles V. This time, Henry VIII allied himself with the Emperor, while James V of Scotland and Sultan Suleiman I sided with the French. In India, Akbar the Great was born at the Umarkot Fort, a pivotal moment in Mughal history. Meanwhile, Spanish explorer Ruy López de Villalobos honored Philip II by renaming the island of Samar and Leyte to Las Islas Filipinas, solidifying Spain's presence in the region. The Ethiopian-Portuguese forces defeated Adal troops at the Battle of Wayna Daga, killing Imam Ahmad Gurey. This victory showcased Copernicus' revolutionary theory that Earth and other planets revolved around the Sun. Additionally, the Nanban trade period began as Portuguese traders made contact with Japan. Francis Xavier laid groundwork for a permanent mission among the people of Ambon, Ternate, and Morotai. The Council of Trent convened its first meeting in Trent, Italy, while Michelangelo Buonarroti became chief architect of St. Peter's Basilica. Emperor Charles V decisively defeated the Schmalkaldic League at the Battle of Mülthberg, solidifying his power. Grand Prince Ivan the Terrible was crowned tsar of Russia, and Emperor Charles V dismantled the Schmalkaldic League, paving the way for the growth of European empires. The Ming dynasty in China issued a decree banning foreign trade and closing seaports along the coast due to conflicts with Japanese pirates. Tomás de Sousa established Salvador in Brazil, and Mimar Sinan built the Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul. Altan Khan led Mongol invasions into China, besieging Beijing, while the Valladolid debate regarding human rights of Indigenous Americans sparked a conversation about colonialism's moral implications. John Caius documented symptoms of England's fifth outbreak of sweating sickness. Here's a rewritten text that meets the specified requirements: Events under Papal authority unfolded in 1553 when the Portuguese established a settlement at Macau. José de Anchieta and Manuel da Nóbrega, two missionaries, founded São Paulo in southeast Brazil that same year. Meanwhile, Princess Elizabeth was imprisoned in the Tower of London due to suspicion of involvement in the Wyatt rebellion, while Mary I issued the orders for her detention. 1555 saw the emergence of the Muscovy Company as England's first major joint-stock trading entity. The publication of Delle Navigazione et Viaggi by Giovanni Battista Ramusio also took place that year, featuring an illustration of Hecelagela's terrain. Notable earthquakes occurred in China during this time period, with the Shaanxi earthquake being one of history's deadliest. 1556 was a pivotal year for several leaders, including Georgius Agricola, who published his groundbreaking work on mineralogy. Akbar also made significant gains, defeating Hemu at the Second Battle of Panipat and expanding the Mughal Empire through a series of conquests. Russia conquered the Astrakhan Khanate during this time. 1557 saw the Portuguese establish themselves in Macau once more, while Habsburg Spain declared bankruptcy due to financial strain. The Ottomans also captured Massawa, isolating Ethiopia from the rest of the world. 1558 marked a significant shift with Elizabeth Tudor ascending to the throne as Queen Elizabeth I and beginning the Elizabethan era. The Livonian War between Poland, Grand Principality of Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark, and Russia took place from 1558 to 1583. The Kingdom of England lost Calais to France after two centuries of control, while Sultan Hairun of Ternate protested against the Portuguese's Christianization efforts in his lands. 1560 saw the Ottoman navy defeating the Spanish fleet at the Battle of Djerba and Jeanne d'Albret declaring Calvinism as Navarre's official religion. Oda Nobunaga emerged as one of Japan's pre-eminent warlords after winning the Battle of Okehazama, while Guido de Bres drew up the Belgic Confession. 1561 marked the birth of Sir Francis Bacon and the fourth battle of Kawanakajima between the Uesugi and Takeda. 1562 saw Akbar reconciling Muslim and Hindu factions through his marriage into the powerful Rajput caste, while the French Wars of Religion between Catholics and Huguenots commenced. The year 1563 was marked by a devastating plague outbreak in Elizabethan England that claimed over 80,000 lives. Galileo Galilei was born in 1564, alongside William Shakespeare's baptism. The Decan sultanates were also mentioned in 1565. 1565 was a year marked by significant events that shaped the course of history, from the establishment of new empires to the defeat of powerful forces. In Brazil, Estácio de Sá founded Rio de Janeiro, while in Spain, Miguel López de Legazpi established the first Spanish settlement in the Philippines, beginning a period of colonization that would last for over three centuries. Meanwhile, in Asia, Andres de Urdaneta discovered the maritime route from Asia to the Americas across the Pacific Ocean, known as the tornaviaje. In Europe, Royal Exchange was founded by Thomas Gresham, and the Ottoman Empire faced defeat at the hands of the Hospitallers during the siege of Malta. In China, the Jiajing Emperor died after 45 years on the throne, and his successor, Longqing Emperor, ascended to power in the Ming dynasty. In Scotland, Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned by Elizabeth I. The following year saw the promulgation of the Edict of Torda, a law that granted freedom of religion and conscience for the first time in the world. The Transylvanian Diet, inspired by the teachings of Ferenc Dávid, also passed this landmark legislation. In Spain, the Morisco Revolt took place from 1568 to 1571, while in Japan, the Azuchi-Momoyama period continued until 1600. In Indonesia, Hadiwijaya sent his son and son-in-law to kill Arya Penangsang, setting the stage for the establishment of the Mataram dynasty. In England, the Rising of the North took place in 1569, and Mercator's world map was published by Gerardus Mercator later that year. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was created with the Union of Lublin, which lasted until 1795. The Ottoman Empire continued to expand, but faced defeats at the hands of the Holy League navy during the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. In Russia, Ivan the Terrible ordered the massacre of inhabitants of Novgorod, and Pope Pius V issued Regnans in Excelsis, a papal bull excommunicating Elizabeth I. The following year saw the fall of Cyprus to the Ottoman Turks, and the Holy League was formed as a united front against the Ottomans. The Spanish-led Holy League navy destroyed the Ottoman Empire's navy at the Battle of Lepanto, while Crimean Tatars attacked and sacked Moscow, burning everything but the Kremlin. American Indians killed Spanish missionaries in what would later be Jamestown, Virginia, and Spanish conquistador Miguel López de Legazpi established Manila, Philippines as the capital of the Spanish East Indies. The Capture of Brielle took place in 1572, and Spanish conquistadores apprehended the last Inca leader Tupak Amaru at Vilcabamba, Peru. Finally, Jeanne d'Albret died aged 43 and was succeeded by Henry of Navarre, while Catherine de' Medici instigated the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre, which would have far-reaching consequences for French history. The lives of Gaspard de Coligny and thousands of Huguenots were marked by violence that spread from Paris to other cities and the countryside. At its peak between 1510 and 1557, Antwerp controlled roughly 40% of global trade. This era saw significant economic growth, with the port earning the Spanish crown seven times more revenue than the Americas. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, the Dutch expedition led by Cornelis de Houtman set sail for the East Indies in 1595, consisting of 249 men and 64 cannons. The expedition reached Banten, a major pepper port on West Java, where they clashed with both Portuguese and local forces. Under Jacob van Neck, the first Dutch fleet reached the "Spice Islands" of Maluku in 1600. Meanwhile, Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake for heresy in Rome. In Japan, the Battle of Sekigahara marked the end of the Warring States period and the beginning of the Edo period. The Portuguese also won a major naval battle in Ambon that year. The Dutch formed an alliance with local Hittuese to counter the Portuguese, gaining the right to purchase spices from them. Elizabeth I granted a charter to the British East India Company, starting England's advance in Asia. Michael the Brave unified Wallachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania after the Battle of Selmăř. Polybius' "The Histories" was translated into various languages, while the Mississippian culture disappeared. A Medallion rug, an Anatolian (modern Turkey) variant, was created and is now kept at the Saint Louis Art Museum. The article also mentions notable individuals such as Hernan Cortes, Henry VIII, Suleiman the Magnificent, Ivan IV the Terrible, Oda Nobunaga, Sir Francis Drake, Alberico Gentili, Philip II of Spain, and Akbar the Great. Additionally, the Columbian Exchange introduced new plants, animals, and diseases to the Old and New Worlds. The spinning wheel revolutionized textile production in Europe, and the letter J was introduced into the English alphabet. Other notable events include the creation of the first portable watch by Peter Henlein, the Iberian Union under Philip II, Juan Ponce de León's sighting of Florida, Vasco Núñez de Balboa's sighting of the Pacific Ocean, Ferdinand and Magellan and Juan Sebastián Elcano's circumnavigation of the world, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's sighting of the Grand Canyon, and Gerolamo Cardano's development of the theory of complex numbers. 1589: William Lee invents the stocking frame in China. Sir John Harrington introduces the first flush toilet, published as "The Metamorphosis of Ajax". Galileo Galilei creates a thermometer. William Barents discovers Spitsbergen. Jacopo Peri composes an opera in Florence. Five Shaolin disciples barely escape from the destruction of the Shaolin Temple. Now, each have to train in their own fighting styles in order to stand-up against the Qing's top martial artists, and avenge their fallen comrades. The movie "Five Shaolin Masters" is directed by Chang Cheh and was released in 1974, showcasing his skills as a director with previously notable films such as "The One-Armed Swordsman", "The Heroic Ones", and "Blood Brothers". Shao Lin Wu Zu, a martial arts film from 1974, was officially released in India under the name "The Eight Diagram Pole Fighter".