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### Week 6 Screening Response

*Ip Man* is a film which shows the birth of cinematic kung-fu. Before watching this movie, I believed Bruce Lee to be the master and beginner of all cinematic kung-fu. While this is still true to me because he was the first martial artist I heard about or saw, every time I think of Bruce Lee I will remember that he was a disciple of Grandmaster Ip. This film is one of many that I have watched recently that brings to light the atrocities of Imperial Japan. Due to economic conflict, nuclear power, human rights violations, Korea/Vietnam Wars, and Olympic competition, I usually fear/demonize China/Korea. Now this is wrong and I make an effort to not demonize China/Korea but watching *IP Man* and *My Way* have given me another reason not to demonize China: Imperial Japan! Watching these movies make you realize that although Samurai Films are awesome, Imperial Japan was horrible to Asia for a long time. *Ip Man* was a great depiction of pre-Japan occupation and Japan occupation. The film also captured the awkward period when guns were still a relatively new item and did not guarantee victory in fights. The insight into the economy of martial arts and the roles of masters, teachers, and disciples was very interesting. The mysticism that I (American) place of marital arts overshadows the history that these people had schools and made money teaching many people martial arts. I enjoyed watching the character Ip deal with the economic part of this at the beginning. He then addressed the marital (so closely spelled to martial) difficulties that martial arts brings to a marriage. He was a martial/marital master. At the beginning, when he is calmly eating food with the man he later schools with almost hits, I thought to myself, oh great, here comes another "I can but I choose not to punch you in the face." The peaceful master who sacrifices himself instead of using his power may be confucian, but I don't enjoy it as much as someone who kicks and punches people in the face. It was nice to see that he recognized the fact that it isn't right to just walk around and pick fights, (like the Northern thugs), but that when you are fighting for a righteous cause you should destroy your enemy. I thought that the violence/brutality of the film was excellent. The didn't show a bone sticking out of a leg, or a "death punch", or a fist through a chest, but anyone who's been punched, or just hit their head on something knows that when Ip man is doing his quick lightning punches it hurts. The stunt work and fight choreography was really amazing and I like the difference between the two masters practicing, the thugs versus the school teachers, and when Ip man takes on the ten Japanese students. The difference was apparent even to someone like

me who knows nothing about martial arts.