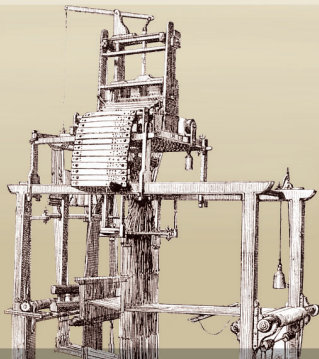


Monday, December 22

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1801:** French silk weaver Joseph Marie Jacquard patented a loom which used punch cards to control a sequence of operations, enabling the weaving of intricate patterns

1639: French dramatist Jean-Baptiste Racine was born

1968: The 82-man crew of the U.S. intelligence ship *Pueblo* were freed after being seized by North Korea

1981: General Leopoldo Galtieri was sworn in as president of Argentina after the Junta dismissed President Viola

2006: Thousands of Somali civilians fled their homes as Ethiopian troops and tanks moved towards Baidoa