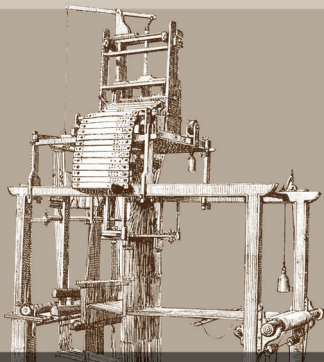


Tuesday, December 22

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

1984: Dom Mintoff stepped down as prime minister of Malta after 13 years

2008: Toyota Motor Corporation, the world's largest automaker, forecast its first operating loss in 70 years due to the automotive crisis