A BRIEF HISTORY OF KUNG-FU

William Acevedo, Carlos Gutiérrez, and Mei Cheung

Engulf yourself in the history of the legends, myths, and reality behind kung-fu. The heroic long swordsman units of the Chinese Army, the evolution of the art of war, and the Northern and Southern styles, the Wushu and the Sanshou, all form part of this book. Learn about the history of the most spectacular martial arts, from the Shaolin monks to Bruce Lee.

Synopsis

A Brief History of Kung-Fu presents the development of martial arts during different periods of Chinese history, from the prehistory to the present. Here you will find different stories (such as the legends of the Shaolin Monastery) and archeological discoveries that show the development of kung-fu starting many, many years ago. The reader will also learn about the military skills of the Chinese armies, the imperial military exams, the Central Academy of Guo Shu, the swordsmen units, and the difference between kung-fu as practiced by the military and kung-fu as practiced by civilians.

Lastly, the reader will see the evolution of kung-fu in the 20th century, its impact in the West, and the influence that TV and the movies (with ambassadors like David Carradine and Bruce Lee) have had on the greater understanding of martial arts in Western society.

Biography

William Acevedo received his chemical engineering degree from the University of America (Bogota, Colombia) and has a master's degree in the same field from the University of Ottawa (Canada). For 22 years he has practiced the disciplines of Shotokan Karate, Taekwondo, Tao Li, Tian Shan Pai, Xingyiquan, Baguazhang, Shuai Chiao, Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He has written articles for diverse magazines such as *Classical Fighting Arts* (U.S.A.) or *Revista de Artes Marciales Asiáticas* (Spain). Currently he exchanges information on the history of Chinese martial arts with other researchers.

Carlos Gutiérrez García has a PhD in the science of physical fitness and sports from the University of Leon (Spain) and is currently a professor for the Department of Physical Fitness and Sports at the University of León. There he teaches various classes on judo, which he has studied since 1992. He is the author of various articles on martial arts and combat activities and is the director of the magazine *Revista de Artes Marciales Asiáticas* since 2006.

Mei Cheung Acevedo has a degree from the University of York and is trained in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese. She has worked with William Acevedo in translating and interpreting Chinese written texts and in preparing a pioneering work on the famous Central Academy of Guoshu of Nanjing. She has also studied art and photography and designed some of the illustrations that accompany this book.

Did you know that

- ...Sherlock Holmes finally defeated Professor Moriarty thanks to his martial arts skills?
- ...Bruce Lee considered acting to be his profession and martial arts his hobby?
- ...kung-fu is not the most appropriate term for referring to kung-fu?



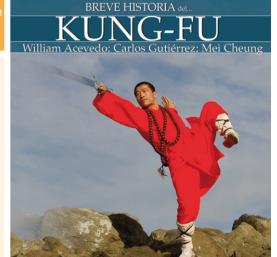








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La fascinante historia del Kung-fu, desde los monjes Shaolin hasta Bruce Lee. Leyenda, mito y realidad de las espectaculares artes marciales chinas.

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