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Dragons in Diaspora: Bruce Lee, Jet Li, and Europe in Ruins

In 2005, the city of Mostar in Bosnia unveiled a statue of Bruce Lee ten years after the end of the war in the Balkans and one day before Hong Kong dedicated its own Lee statue to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the star's birth in San Francisco. However, this did not mark the first time Lee emerged out of European ashes. In *Way Of The Dragon* (1972), Lee took on Chuck Norris in the ruins of Rome's ancient Coliseum. However, the significance of the champion's legacy remains moot. Mostar's Lee statue was quickly defaced, and films that have picked up on the theme of the Chinese martial artist in the West (e.g., the Jet Li vehicles *Danny the Dog* [2005], and *Kiss of the Dragon*, [2001]) continue to complicate the way in which the Asian martial artist is depicted against the backdrop of the ruins of European civilization.