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| Sholay (1975) |
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| *Sholay*,directed by Ramesh Sippy and written by Javed Akhtar and Saleem Khan, is considered to be the most successful film in Indian film history. It is influenced by American Western films such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969), the Spaghetti Western *Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968), and Kurosawa’s famous samurai film *The Seven Samurai* (1954). To match the magnitude of the American Westerns, *Sholay* was to be India’s first 70 mm film with stereophonic sound, but due to the expenses involved, it was shot on 35 mm and then converted to 70 mm widescreen format.  *Sholay* indigenised the genre of Westerns in India by merging it with the conventions of Hindi film melodramas, such as the use of songs, romantic love, Hindu rituals and caste system, representation of Hindu and Muslim characters, and a unique portrayal of diverse dialects of North-Indian languages. The narrative tells the story of an ex-policeman Thakur Baldev Singh (Sanjeev Kumar) who hires two convicts, Jai (Amitabh Bachchan) and Veeru (Dharmendra), to seek revenge against the bandit Gabbar Singh (Amjad Khan) for murdering his family. A love interest develops between Thakur’s widowed daughter-in-law Radha (Jaya Bhaduri) and Jai, while Veeru falls in love with Basanti (Hema Malini), a comic and chatty horse-cart rider.  M. S. Shinde was awarded the Filmfare Award for Best Editing in 1976, and in 2005 the film was proclaimed by Filmfare the best film of the last fifty years. |
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| Further reading:  (Chopra)  (Wimal and Sahai) |