

## Sea of Poppies

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I read [Sea of Poppies](#) by Amitav Ghosh while travelling to Florida for Winter Solstice. Great language and exciting plot - it is set in the 1830s in India where many of the characters are involved in the (then legal) Opium Trade. We learn many details of how opium destroyed not only the consumers of it but also the producers. We also see the effects of rigid caste, class and racism among the different characters. I gained an interesting understanding of the times and how different people thought and felt back then.

The book contains a lot of authentic language of the period, and has an appendix which defines and gives the etymology of many of the words that have since come into the English language, such as [bandanna](#) and [shampoo](#). This dictionary was written by one of the book's characters, Neel, a distant relative of the author who updated the word list and provides the author's connection to the story.

