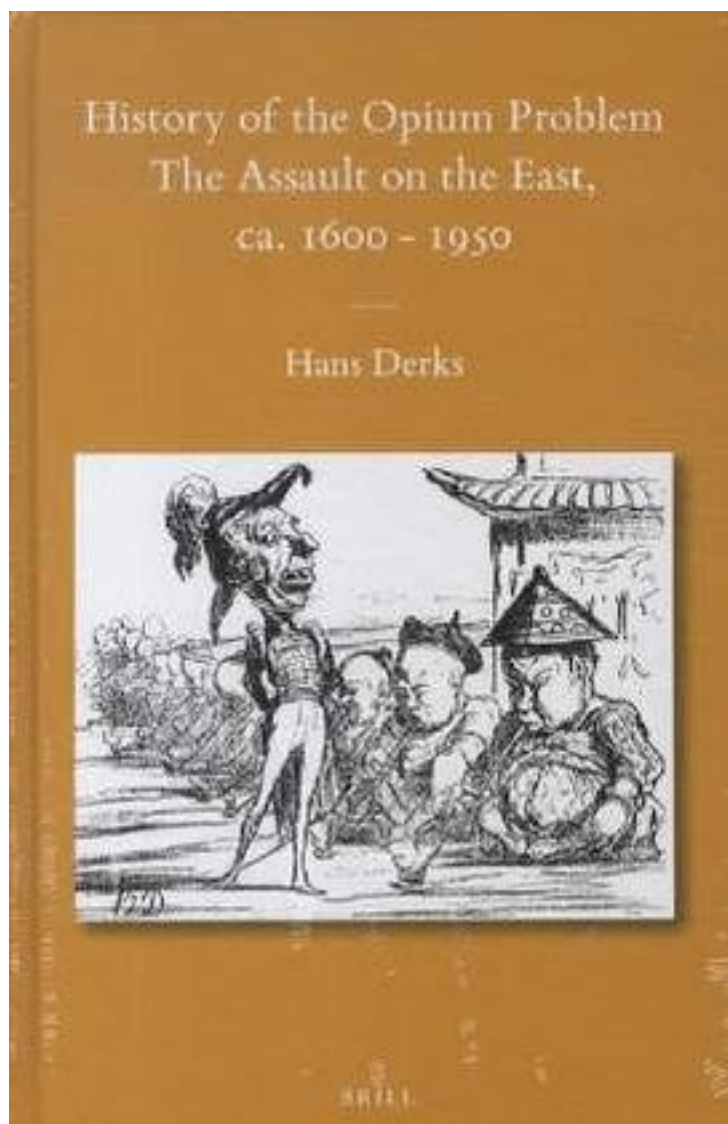# History of the Opium Problem

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This is the first scholarly study in which the production, trade and political effects of opium and its derivatives are shown over many centuries, and in many countries (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, all Southeast Asian countries and some in Europe and the Americas). Starting in the 16th century, slavery and opium became the two means with which the bodies and souls of men and women in the tropics were exploited in western imperialism and colonialism. The first waned with the abolition movement in the 19th century, but opium production and trade continued to spread, with the associated serious social and political effects. Around 1670 the Dutch introduced opium as a cash crop for mass production and distribution in India and Indonesia. China became the main target in the 19th century, and only succeeded in getting rid of the opium problem around 1950. Then it had already been transformed from an "Eastern" into a "Western" problem.

作者介绍:

Hans Derks, historian and Doctor in the Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam (1986), was Senior Lecturer at the University of Utrecht and University of Surinam. He published about twenty books and numerous scholarly articles on European and Chinese history, the Second World War, and ancient Greek history, including Jew, Nomad or Pariah. Studies on Hannah Arendt's Choice (Aksant/Transactions, 2004).

目录: Preface
Content
List of Illustrations, Tables, Figures and Maps
PART ONE THE OPIUM PROBLEM
PART TWO THE BRITISH ASSAULT
PART THREE THE DUTCH ASSAULT
PART FOUR THE FRENCH ASSAULT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
PART FIVE THE NEW IMPERIALISTS
PART SIX THE VICTIMS
PART SEVEN THE STORY OF THE SNAKE AND ITS TAIL
APPENDICES
GLOSSARY
BIBLIOGRAPHY
INDEX
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