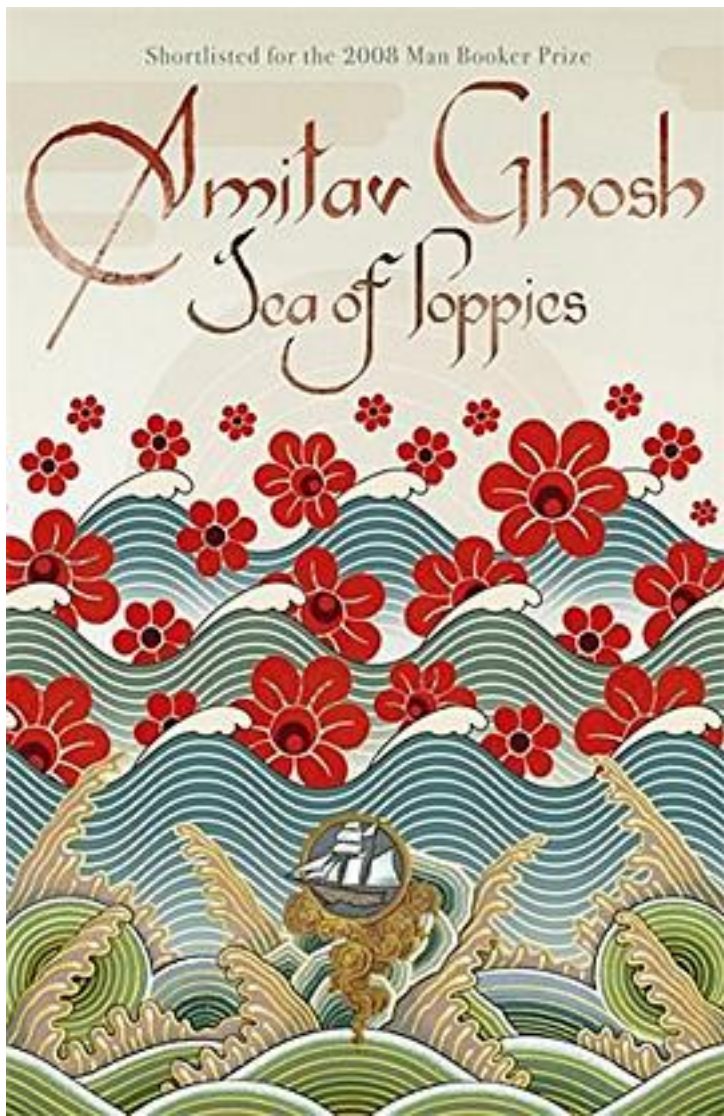


Sea of Poppies



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著者:Amitav Ghosh

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The first in an epic trilogy, "Sea of Poppies" is "a remarkably rich saga . . . which has plenty of action and adventure a la Dumas, but moments also of Tolstoyan penetration--and a drop or two of Dickensian sentiment" ("The Observer" London]). At the heart of this vibrant saga is a vast ship, the "Ibis." Her destiny is a tumultuous voyage across the Indian Ocean shortly before the outbreak of the Opium Wars in China. In a time of colonial upheaval, fate has thrown together a diverse cast of Indians and Westerners on board, from a bankrupt raja to a widowed tribeswoman, from a mulatto American freedman to a free-spirited French orphan. As their old family ties are washed away, they, like their historical counterparts, come to view themselves as "jahaj-bhais," or ship-brothers. The vast sweep of this historical adventure spans the lush poppy fields of the Ganges, the rolling high seas, and the exotic backstreets of Canton. With a panorama of characters whose diaspora encapsulates the vexed colonial history of the East itself, "Sea of Poppies" "is" a storm-tossed adventure worthy of Sir Walter Scott ("Vogue").

Amitav Ghosh is the internationally bestselling author of many works of fiction and nonfiction, including "The Glass Palace," and is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes. Ghosh divides his time between Kolkata and Goa, India, and Brooklyn, New York. Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize Longlisted for the International IMPAC Literary Award An "Economist" Best Book of the Year A "San Francisco Chronicle" Best Book of the Year A "Christian Science Monitor" Best Book of the Year A "Publishers Weekly" Best Book of the Year

At the heart of this vibrant story is a vast ship, the "Ibis." Its destiny is a tumultuous voyage across the Indian Ocean to fight China's vicious nineteenth-century Opium Wars. The crew is a motley array of sailors and stowaways, coolies and convicts. In a time of colonial upheaval, fate has thrown together a diverse cast of Indians and Westerners, from a bankrupt raja to a widowed tribeswoman, from a mulatto American freedman to a free-spirited French orphan. As their old family ties are washed away, they, like their historical counterparts, come to view themselves as "jahaj-bhais," or ship-brothers. An unlikely dynasty is born, which will span continents, races, and generations. This historical adventure spans the lush poppy fields of the Ganges, the rolling high seas, the exotic backstreets of Canton. But it is the panorama of characters, whose diaspora encapsulates the vexed colonial history of the East itself, that makes "Sea of Poppies" so vibrant. "Ghosh's best and most ambitious work yet is an adventure story set in nineteenth-century Calcutta against the backdrop of the Opium Wars. On the "Ibis," a ship engaged in transporting opium across the Bay of Bengal, varied life stories converge. A fallen raja, a half-Chinese convict, a plucky American sailor, a widowed opium farmer, a transgendered religious visionary are all united by the 'smoky paradise' of the opium seed. Ghosh writes with impeccable control, and with a vivid and sometimes surprising imagination: a woman's tooth protrudes 'like a tilted gravestone'; an opium addict's writhing spasms are akin to 'looking at a pack of rats squirming in a sack'; the body of a young man is 'a smoking crater that had just risen from the ocean and was still waiting to be explored.'" --"The New Yorker"

In 1883, the British government sent the accomplished linguist Sir George Grierson to look into alleged abuses in the recruitment of indentured servants from India (known as 'coolies') who ended up on ships bound for British plantations throughout the world. In his diary, Grierson wrote about an encounter with the father of one female coolie in a village along the Ganges, noting that the man 'denied having any such relative, and probably she had gone wrong and been disowned by him.' The historical record provides only a trace of this woman: a name, a processing number, a year of emigration. In his ambitious new novel, "Sea of Poppies," a finalist for this year's Man Booker Prize, Amitav Ghosh attempts to fill in the blanks left by the archives. Set partly in Bengal, the scene of Grierson's inquiry, and drawing on accounts the Englishman left, it opens in 1838 on the eve of the Opium Wars. A former slave ship called the Ibis has been refitted to transport coolies from Calcutta to the sugar estates of Mauritius, and for hundreds of pages we watch as its crew and passengers are slowly assembled until it finally gets on

its way. The first in a projected trilogy, "Sea of Poppies" is big and baggy, a self-styled epic with colossal themes and almost a dozen major characters, including the son of an American slave (who is passing as white), the orphaned daughter of a French botanist (who is passing as a coolie) and an Anglophile raja (who has been wrongly sentenced to a penal colony on Mauritius). But a majority onboard are Indian peasants from the opium--producing countryside, forced by famine or scandal to seek a new life elsewhere. Devoted to reinvention, Ghosh's plot focuses on one of these villagers: Deeti, a widow who assumes another name and the (lower) caste of a new love as they escape together on the Ibis."--Gaiutra Bahadur, "The New York Times Book Review"

"Today it seems no year goes by without yet another Indian novel announcing its entry into the global canon, confirming Indian writing as among the most innovative and interesting anywhere. Over the last two decades, the Indian author Amitav Ghosh has established himself as a writer of uncommon talent who combines literary flair with a rare seriousness of purpose. His first novel, "The Circle of Reason," seemed very much in the Rushdie magical-realist tradition, but he has evolved considerably since then, notably in works like "The Shadow Lines" and more recently "The Glass Palace," which deal movingly and powerfully with the

作者介绍:

阿米塔夫·高希 (Amitav Ghosh)
出生于加尔各答，成长于印度、孟加拉国和斯里兰卡等地。他从新德里大学毕业后，转而前往牛津大学研习社会人类学博士学位。他曾是田野工作者，也曾经任职记者，但最终他成为一个小说家，并且以其独有的人类学关怀、学者的丰富知识背景，以及细腻入微的描写，构成了当代印度英语文学重要的一部分。

自一九八六年出版第一部小说《理性环》(The Circle of Reason) 之后，阿米塔夫·高希笔耕不辍，出版了《阴影线》(The Shadow Lines)、《加尔各答染色体》(The Calcutta Chromosome)、《玻璃宫殿》(The Glass Palace)、《饿潮》(The Hungry Tide)，以及“朱鹭号”三部曲中的《罌粟海》和《烟河》(River of Smoke) 等著作，并先后获得包括法国美第奇文学奖、印度国内最负盛名的文学奖掌诃德耶学院奖以及英国阿瑟·克拉克科幻奖等奖项。其中，《罌粟海》更是入围二〇〇八年英国曼布克奖决选名单，荣获二〇〇九年沃达丰字谜图书奖年度最佳小说，以及二〇〇九年印度广场金鹅毛笔最佳年度小说以及读者票选最受欢迎奖。

阿米塔夫·高希曾与二〇〇七年被印度总统授予印度最高荣誉“卓越贡献奖”(Padma Shri)，还曾于二〇一〇年与著名作家玛格丽特·阿斯特伍德同获丹·大卫奖。

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标签

评论

虽然不喜欢李安，但觉得Ghosh的书还是要李安来拍才好

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书评

京东搞活动时订的还没到手，看介绍应该是我喜欢的历史惊险传奇类型的，应该不错。国内出版的外国作家以鸦片战争为背景的小说好像很少，记得多年前有本《大班》的时代背景好像差不多也是类似的，这样的小说出版社为什么不大力宣传一下呢？不知道第二部《烟河》什么时候出版？

你不得不承认这世界上有些书是有魔力的：拿起来就放不下，不看的时候经常心里想着，有时候忍不住偷偷往后翻，发现有了大结局的迹象又赶紧翻回来。终于看完了，长出一口气，又开始暗暗的回味里面的故事。《罂粟之海》（sea of poppies）就是这样的一本书。这是一个发生在大航...

第五章在全书中是非常精彩好看、也值得深刻思考的一章！尤其是在拉斯卡里船上举办的招待晚宴上，尼尔、扎卡里、伯纳姆、唐提等人之间的对话辩论以及舞女艾洛凯什的搅局，实在是相当深刻、精彩和好玩！翻译得真地道！第一次鸦片战争在这里就已经初露端倪了。

最后的最后，终于把这本书给啃完了。几乎类似于强迫症一般。承认是被书面所吸引，但不论字体大小还是书边距都不是我喜欢的类型…故事由三条毫不相干的分支逐一展开，看到90页的时候我真的有种想把书扔了的感觉，最终大师还是用一条名叫朱鹭号的船将所有十几号人物穿在了一起。...

看书的过程好像看电视一般，场景很真实，就是不知道后面两部啥时候出，第一次因为一本书查了很多资料，第一次因为一本书很想去一个国家去看看。我的旅途单中要加上印度这一站，看看神秘的恒河和杂乱的孟加拉。一个帝国的没落不是没有原因的，王孙奢华的生活，罂粟带给英国人的...

书是很好的，故事是很吸引人的，不过象这样在第一本书的结尾把读者晾在一旁的作者还真少见，颇有美剧编剧的风格。Amitav Ghosh的写作速度再快也不行啊，三部曲估计要搞到2010年以后……
如果你没有等待的耐心，建议在电脑上设个闹钟，2011年元旦再来看完整的Ibis三部曲吧

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