

THE ⁵⁴²
INDIAN OPIUM TRADE

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THE TRUTH ABOUT
THE INDIAN OPIUM TRADE

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FOREWORD

In view of the misconceptions which have arisen regarding the policy of the British Government towards opium in India, the facts in this book are now placed before the public.

The following conclusions, which plainly emerge, are of general interest. First, the Government of India does not encourage the cultivation and use of opium either for foreign or domestic purposes; on the contrary, it hedges them round with every conceivable restriction.

Secondly, the consumption of opium in India differs widely from the practice of Western countries. The demand for the drug comes, not from "dope fiends" who

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TABLE I

ACREAGE UNDER OPIUM CULTIVATION IN THE
BEHAR AND BENARES AGENCIES.

1840-1901.

Year.	Behar.	Benares.	Total.
1840-41	105,254	45,767	151,021
1850-51	183,716	73,892	257,608
1860-61	175,704	96,383	272,086
1870-71	304,719	211,132	515,851
1875-76	294,329	236,401	580,739
1880-81	271,741	264,541	536,282
1885-86	283,446	311,475	594,921
1890-91	254,975	246,744	501,719
1895-96	236,684	295,588	532,272
1900-01	220,400	386,262	606,662

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TABLE II

ACREAGE UNDER OPIUM IN THE BENARES AGENCY.

1904-1920.	
1904-5	378,961
1905-6	409,221
1906-7	387,473
1907-8	362,311
1908-9	258,257
1909-10	251,538
1910-11	264,550
1911-12	200,672
1912-13	178,263
1913-14	144,561
1914-15	164,911
1915-16	167,155
1916-17	204,186
1917-18	207,010
1918-19	177,124
1919-20	155,871

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TABLE III

ACREAGE UNDER OPIUM IN MALWA, 1903-1920.

Year.	Central India.	Rajputana.	Total.
1903-04	151,728	102,859	254,587
1904-05	115,116	98,615	213,731
1905-06	91,865	54,812	146,677
1906-07	162,622	84,289	246,911
1907-08	119,770	71,944	191,714
1908-09	85,566	49,063	134,629
1909-10	62,873	46,100	108,973
1910-11	87,329	59,933	147,262
1911-12	47,290	24,693	71,983
1912-13	22,016	25,127	47,143
1913-14	2,288	9,989	12,277
1914-15	2,904	12,416	15,320
1915-16	1,450	9,118	10,568
1916-17	15,419	31,022	46,441
1917-18	26,658	27,693	54,341
1918-19	11,237	13,634	24,871
1919-20	12,027	29,180	41,207

TABLE IV.

OPIUM CONSUMED IN INDIA, 1918-1919.

Province.	Area in Square miles.	Population.	No. of shops for the sale of raw opium.	Mean con- sumption in grains for each head of population.
Assam	53,015	5,842,000	330	.145.92
Bengal	78,699	42,141,000	820	13.82
Bihar and Orissa ...	83,181	33,243,000	548	13.82
Bombay	123,059	18,560,000	923	46.08
Burma	230,839	10,491,000	124	69.12
Central Provinces	99,823	11,971,000	1,069	49.165
Madras	142,330	38,230,000	638	13.82
N.-W. F. Province	13,418	2,042,000	66	47.62
Punjab	99,779	20,330,000	827	41.47
United Provinces...	107,267	47,692,000	1,031	15.36

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TABLE V.

CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM IN THE MAIN PROVINCES OF BRITISH INDIA.

(Gross Revenue excluding cost of production.)

Year.	Consumption. Gross Revenue.	
	(Lbs.)	£
1909-10	... 993,400	937,300
1910-11	... 995,100	972,300
1911-12	... 993,200	1,066,700
1912-13	... 1,007,800	1,146,700
1913-14	... 1,011,300	1,347,000
1914-15	... 996,200	1,365,500
1915-16	... 956,800	1,420,300
1916-17	... 962,100	1,403,000
1917-18	... 980,800	1,514,000
1918-19	... 936,400	1,644,800

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TABLE VI.

CHESTS OF OPIUM AUCTIONED AT CALCUTTA.

1900-1920.

1900-1	...	45,300	1910-11	...	37,560
1901-2	...	48,000	1911-12	...	26,330
1902-3	...	48,000	1912-13	...	17,890
1903-4	...	48,000	1913-14	...	9,070
1904-5	...	48,000	1914-15	...	10,648
1905-6	...	49,200	1915-16	...	10,020
1906-7	...	52,800	1916-17	...	9,129
1907-8	...	48,900	1917-18	...	4,264
1908-9	...	45,900	1918-19	...	5,102
1909-10	...	42,300	1919-20	...	3,600

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TABLE VII.

CHESTS SOLD IN AUCTION, AVERAGE PRICE
AND GROSS PROCEEDS, 1909-1920.

Year.	No. of chests sold in auction.	Average price realised in £	Gross proceeds. £
1909-10	... 42,300	107.5	4,546,000
1910-11	... 37,560	192.7	7,240,000
1911-12	... 26,330	186.0	4,898,000
1912-13	... 17,890	185.6	3,320,000
1913-14	... 9,070	140.1	1,280,000
1914-15	... 10,648	104.8	1,130,000
1915-16	... 10,020	114.7	1,149,000
1916-17	... 9,129	187.4	1,807,000
1917-18	... 4,264	216.8	930,000
1918-19	... 5,102	230.4	1,163,000
1919-20	... 3,600	331.6	1,170,000

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TABLE VIII.

ESTIMATED REQUIREMENT OF THE EXTRA-
CHINA MARKET IN 1911.

(i) British Colonies outside India.		
Mauritius	...	20
Seychelles	...	200
Canada	...	50
Trinidad	...	20
Jamaica	...	5
British Guiana	...	10
Fiji	...	5
		310
(ii) British Colonies in Asia.		
Hong Kong	...	400
Straits Settlements	...	2,180
Ceylon	...	130
Borneo	...	126
Sarawak	...	152
		2,988
(iii) Far East outside China and omitting Formosa and Japan.		
Malay Straits	...	1,000
Siam	...	1,360
Dutch East Indies	...	3,000
French China	...	800
Macao	...	500
		6,660
(iv) Estimated consumption of China opium in French Indo-China...		2,200
(v) Formosa		1,000
Total	...	13,158
(Say)	...	13,200