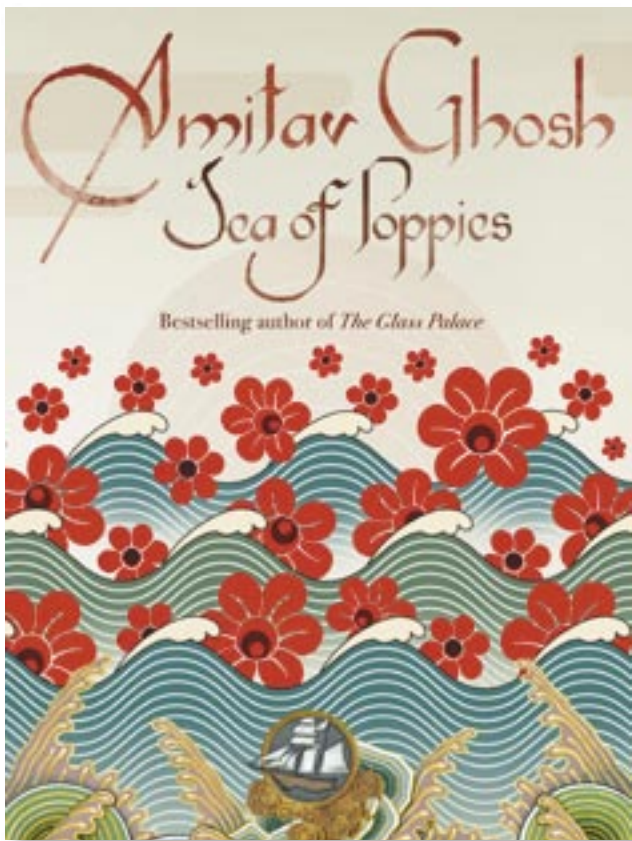




Reader's Guide



Other books by Amitav Ghosh

The Calcutta Chromosome

The Circle of Reason

The Glass Palace

The Hungry Tide

The Shadow Lines

Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh

Published by John Murray

Paperback RRP £11.99

www.themanbookerprize.com

About the author

Amitav Ghosh is one of India's best-known writers. His most recent novel, *Sea of Poppies*, is the first volume of the Ibis Trilogy. He is married to the writer, Deborah Baker, and has two children, Lila and Nayan.

Sea of Poppies

In a time of colonial upheaval, fate has thrown together a truly diverse cast of Indians and Westerners, from a bankrupt Raja to a widowed villager, from an evangelical English opium trader to a mulatto American freedman. 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.

It is this panorama of characters, whose diaspora encapsulates the vexed colonial history of the East itself, which makes *Sea of Poppies* so alive - as written by one of the world's finest novelists.

Discussion points

How does Amitav Ghosh use language to obscure and reveal identities?

Sea of Poppies is a book of strict social rules and hierarchies - in the villages, in the palace, in the prison, in the grand houses and onboard ship. Why is this? Who makes the rules? Who do they benefit? Who/what challenges them?

Would you describe *Sea of Poppies* as an 'epic' novel? If so, what epic qualities does it display?

Amitav Ghosh uses a mingling of languages such as Anglo-Indian transliterations, pidgins and slangs, what impact does this have on the reader?

Sea of Poppies is a projected trilogy, what direction can you see (or would you like to see) the second volume taking?

Themed reading

A Fine Balance Rohinton Mistry

Waverley Walter Scott

A Suitable Boy Vikram Seth

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