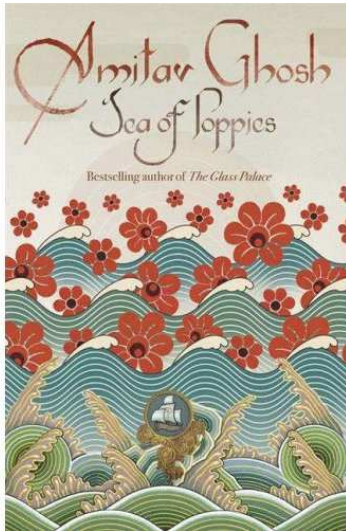


Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh



This is the first volume in a projected trilogy. The story unfolds in north India and the Bay of Bengal in 1838 on the eve of the British attack on the Chinese ports known as the first Opium War. Amitav Ghosh assembles from different corners of the world sailors, marines and passengers for the Ibis, a slaving schooner now converted to the transport of coolies and opium. In bringing his troupe of characters to Calcutta and into the open water, Ghosh provides the reader with all manner of stories, and equips himself with the personnel to man and navigate an old-fashioned literary three-decker.