



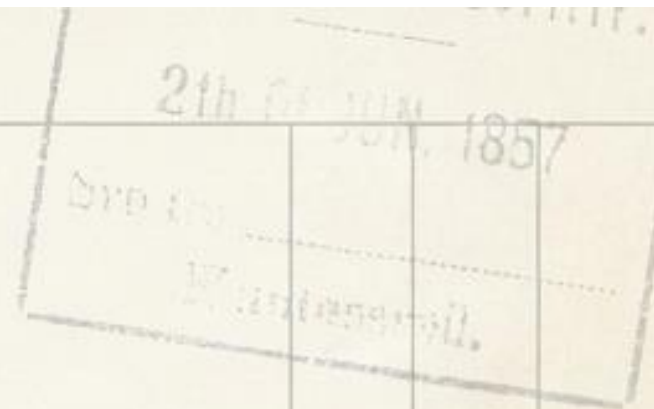
INDIAN REVENUE FROM INDIAN OPIUM

BRITISH HONOUR OR BRITISH DISGRACE

Distilling Captain Tyler's Scathing 1857 Audit of the
East India Company's Narcotic Empire.

CRIMINOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

BY DR. MRIDUL
SRIVASTAVA



THE ECONOMICS OF A "NATIONAL SIN"



The Opium Empire: British Revenue vs Chinese Life (1857)

Exploring how Indian revenue was built upon the exploitation of Chinese life, leading to diplomatic hostilities and moral crisis.



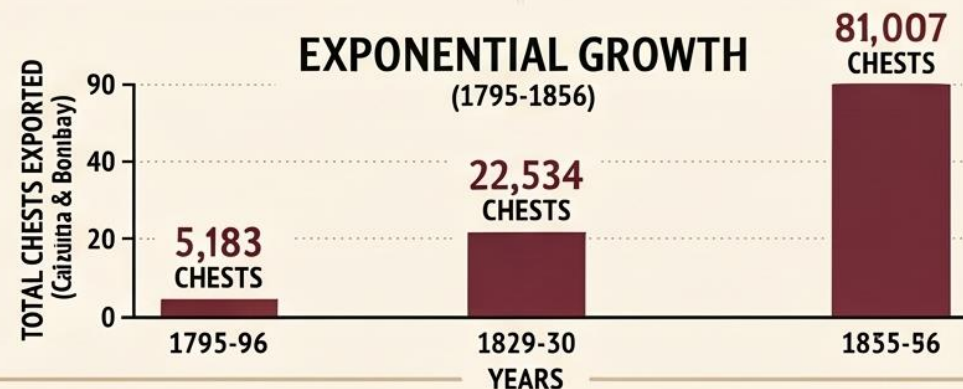
£3,282,401

NET REVENUE

(Total profit derived by Indian Government, 1854-5)

**SUPPORTING FACT:
400,000 ACRES OF POPPY**
(The British government dedicated this vast amount of 'richest land' to cultivation in India)

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH (1795-1856)



THE MORAL AND DIPLOMATIC COST

KEY FINDING: THE 'ARROW' INCIDENT

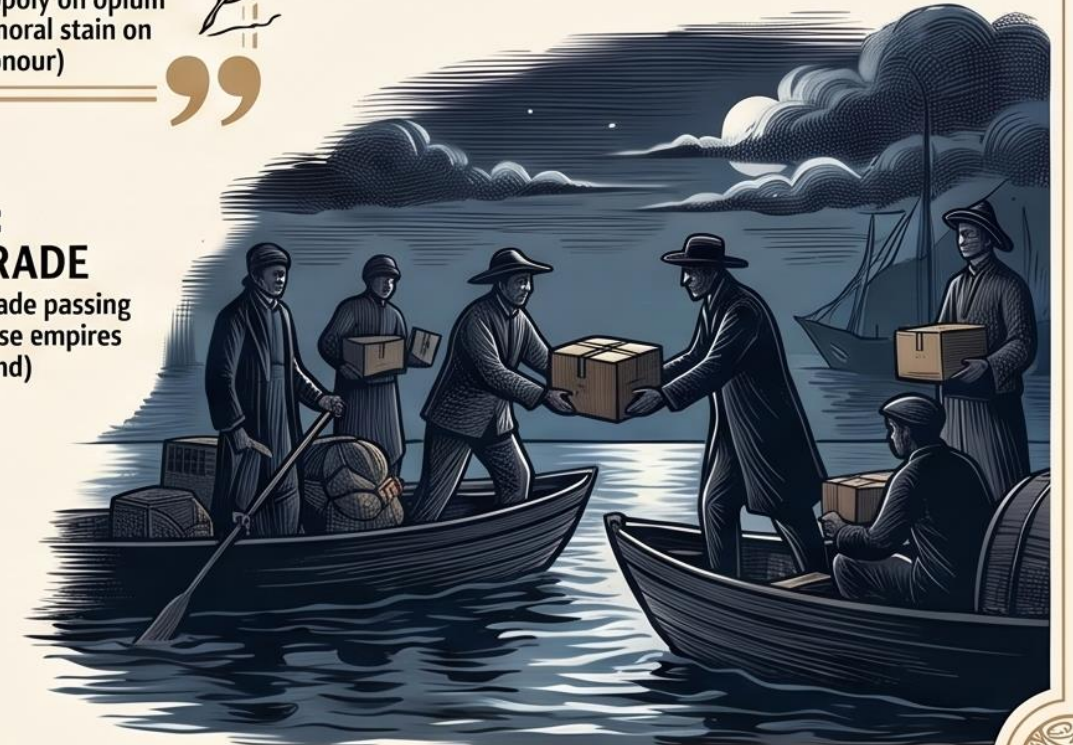
(Hostilities in the Canton River sparked after Chinese authorities boarded the British-registered vessel for piracy)



QUOTE: "A GRIEVOUS NATIONAL SIN"

(The author describes the government monopoly on opium production as a moral stain on British honour)

**DEFINITION:
CONTRABAND TRADE**
(More than half of the whole trade passing between the British and Chinese empires is defined as contraband)



The Opium Trade: British Revenue vs Chinese Life (1857)

BRITISH EMPIRE'S ECONOMIC ENGINE

HUMAN AND MORAL COST TO CHINA

3,900%
Increase in
Export Volume

1000:
2,000 Chests

1855:
80,000 Chests

£3,282,401
Net Annual Revenue

In 1854-5, opium provided roughly
one-sixth of the total revenue of
the Indian Empire.

A Trade Built on Contraband

More than half of total trade between British
and Chinese empires was contraband.

RAPID ACCELERATION OF OPIUM EXPORTS

Year		Total Chests	Total Value
1820-21		7,425 Chests	\$8,100,900
1837-38		20,040 Chests	\$10,883,157
1854-55		81,007 Chests	£6,437,098

A Grievous National Sin

British honour was disgraced
by profiting from Chinese
"misery and demoralization."

More Seductive than Alcohol

Contemporary accounts
described opium as more hurtful
than spirits, leading to criminal
actions and social ruin.

The 10-Year Abolition Plan

The author proposed a gradual cessation, ending all
opium exports from British India within a decade.

A Pretext for War: The Arrow Incident of 1856

The Incident



Chinese authorities board the Arrow in the Canton river to arrest pirates. The ship is Chinese-owned but flies a British flag under an expired Hong Kong license.

The Retaliation

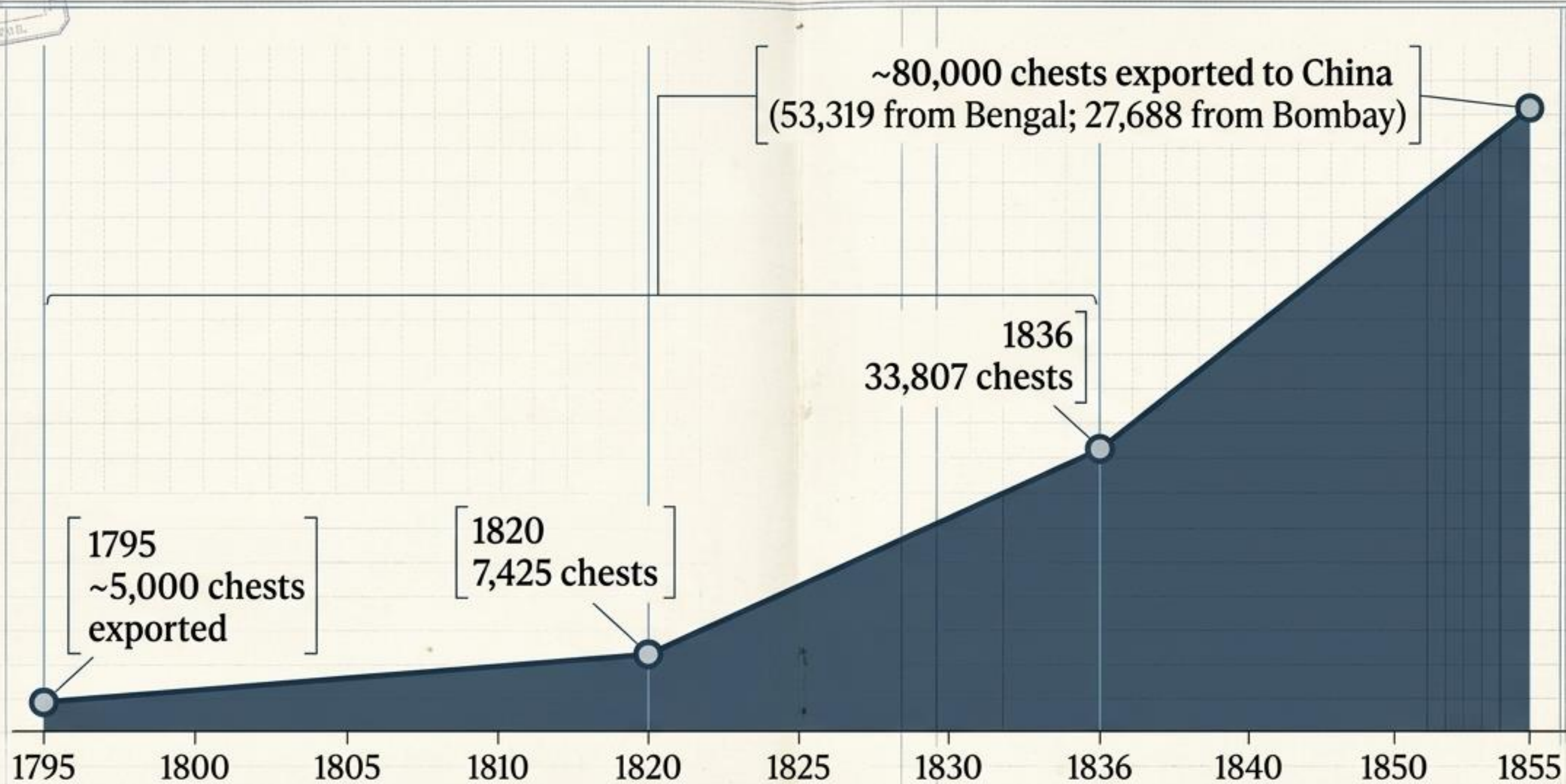


Viewing this as an insult to the Union Jack, British forces attack Canton, seize forts, and initiate open hostilities.

Tyler's Thesis

The Arrow dispute is a superficial excuse. The true source of the conflict is decades of British insistence on smuggling illegal narcotics into China.

The Exponential Explosion of the Trade (1795–1855)



What began as a marginal export morphed into an 80,000-chest-per-year macro-economic machine valued at over £6,000,000 annually.

The Financial Dependency of the Indian Empire

The Imperial Ledger

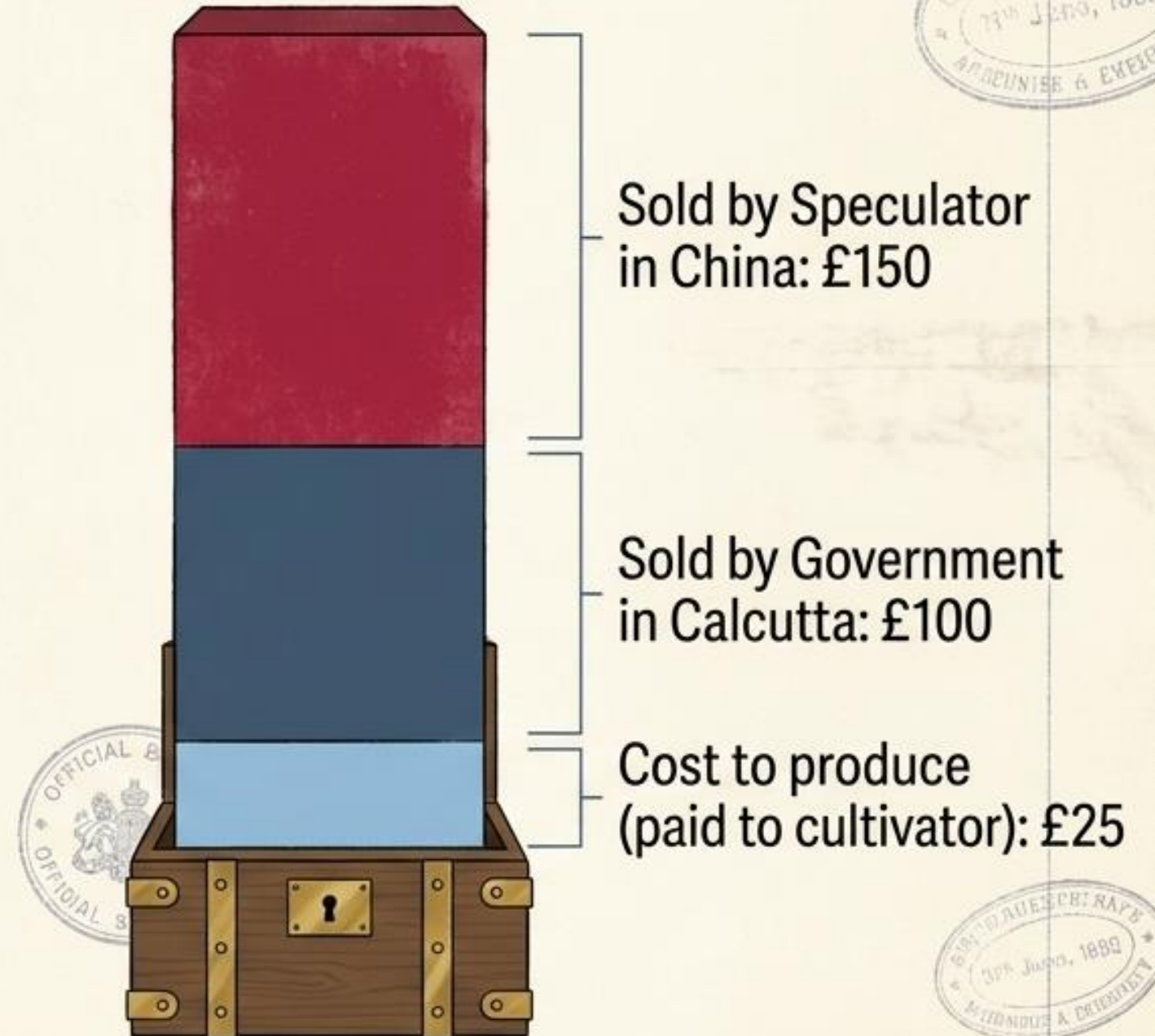
1854-55

Gross Opium Revenue: £4,818,647
Production Charges: £1,418,211

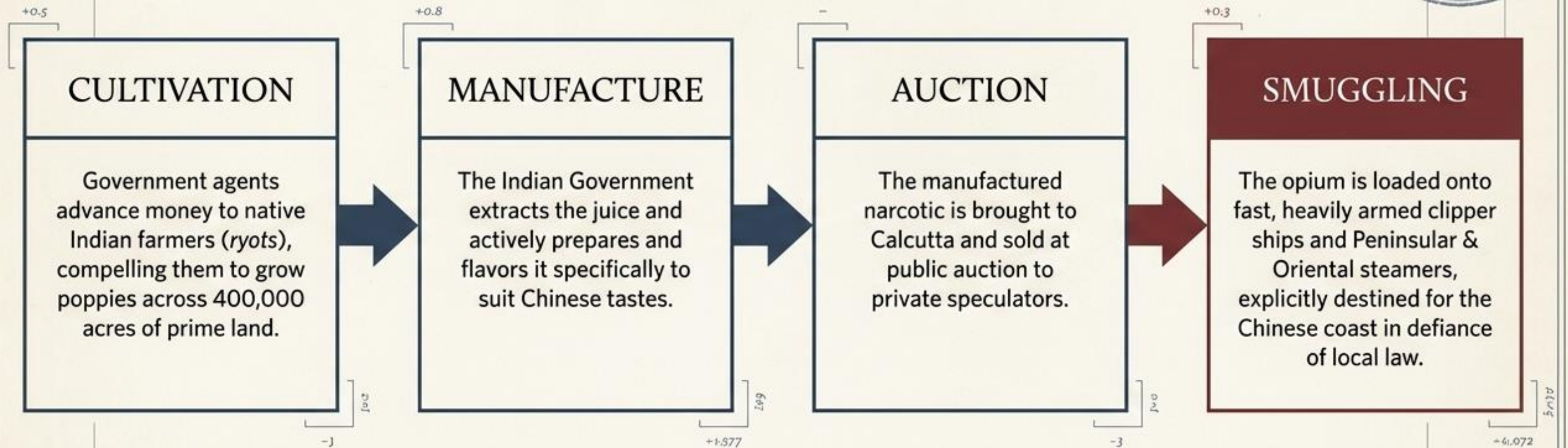
Net Profit: £3,359,020

This single drug accounts for
ONE-SIXTH of the total revenue
of the entire Indian Empire.

The Profit Margin



The State-Sponsored Supply Chain of Contraband



The Nature of the Poison: Alcohol vs. Opium

Alcohol



- **Nature:** A stimulant that can be used in moderation.
- **Societal Effect:** Leads to erratic behavior, violence, and is an "offense to society."

Opium



- **Nature:** An "ensnaring, seductive, and deleterious habit" that wholly envelops the user.
- **Societal Effect:** Stupefies the user, ruins their physical capacity for work, destroys families, and inevitably leads to ruin.

"There is no slavery on earth to be compared with the bondage into which opium casts its victim."

The Human Cost of the Bengal Monopoly

**“The misery and demoralization
occasioned by it are almost beyond belief.”**
— General Alexander

Victims

3,200,000

The Bengal supply alone
creates and sustains over three
million addicts in China.

Lifespan

10 Years

The average life expectancy
of an addict after the habit is
firmly contracted.

Net Profit

£14

The total profit the British
Government derives from a
single victim over their 20 years
of opium-smoking existence,
before it kills them.



Two Empires, Two Distinct Moral Policies

✓ The Chinese Emperor



Refuses to legalize it for tax.

"Nothing will induce me to derive a revenue from the vice and misery of my people."

Destroyed 20,000 chests in 1841 to stop the flow of the poison.

Protection of citizens' physical and moral health.

✗ The British Government



Derives 1/6th of its Imperial revenue from the drug.

Manufactures it, flavors it for maximum temptation, and wages war to protect the smugglers.

"...sacrificing its native subjects, and has been itself flavouring the pernicious substance, so as to make it as tempting as possible to its wretched customers."

Pure pecuniary advantage.

The Hypocrisy of the Flag

The Ideal:

Intended as the global symbol of "civilization, honour, honour, and Christianity."



The Reality:

Hoisted over opium stations, clippers, and smugglers on the Chinese coast to protect contraband from local law enforcement.

The Consequence:

"All good Chinese... hate the British, by whom they are ruined." The flag is associated solely with demoralization and ruin.

We are right to love our flag... but we should also be particular about what it covers.

The Missionary Paradox



British missionaries sent to convert 400 million Chinese to Christianity.



British merchants supplying the very people they wish to convert with an addictive, destructive narcotic.

The Inevitable Question

"Why do Christians bring us opium... and injure me for the sake of gain?"

Natives... tell us missionaries how anxious they are to be rid of this appalling vice,
What good can we do... when the name of Jesus is so associated with the accursed thing?

The Illegitimacy of the War

The First Opium War (1841-42)

China violently attempts to stop the contraband by imprisoning merchants and destroying 20,000 chests. Britain responds with war, making China pay for the destroyed "black dirt," and upholds the smugglers "with a strong hand."



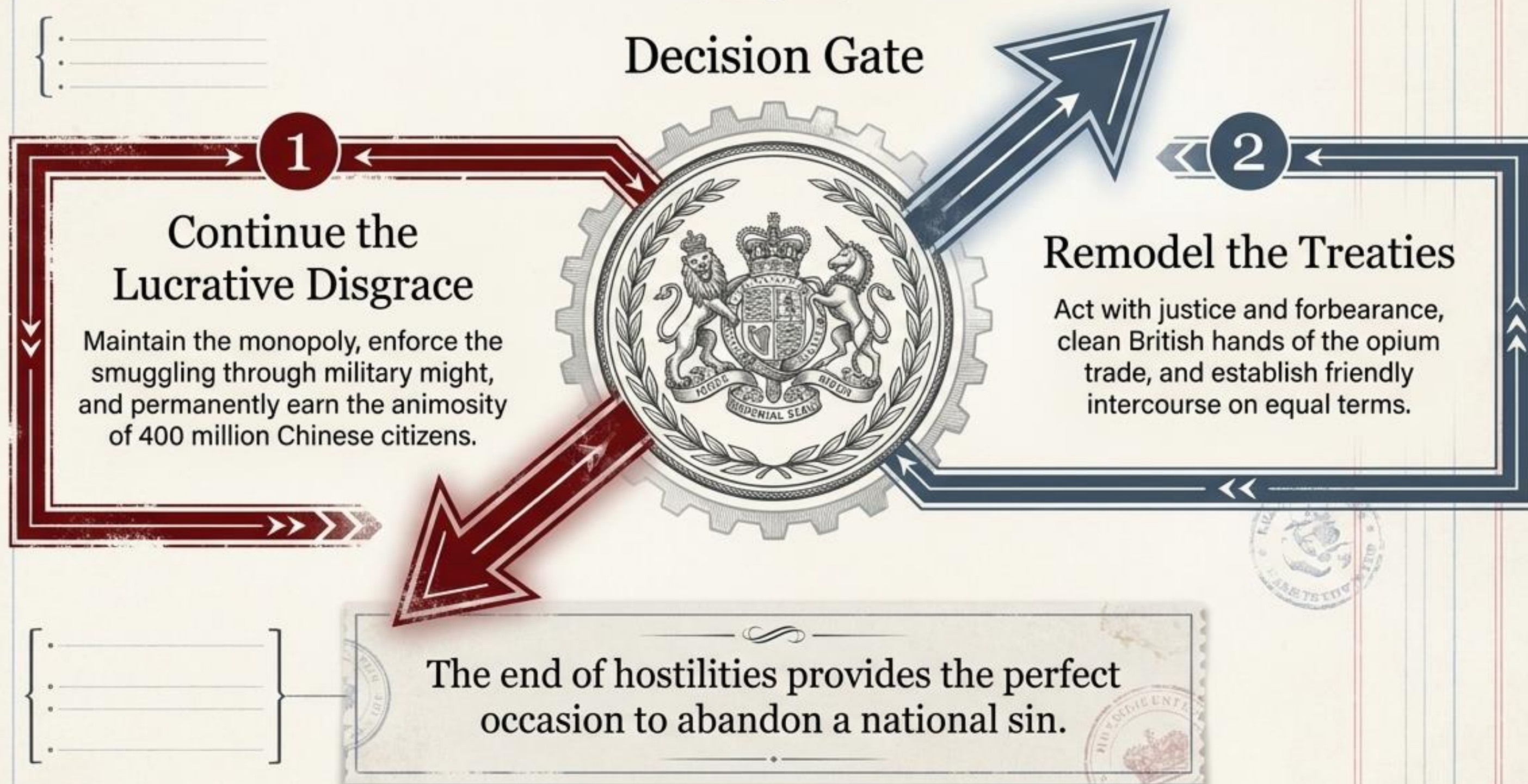
The Present Hostilities (1857)

Britain demands China respect treaties, while British agents actively break Chinese law daily through smuggling.

Conclusion: Britain forces treaties at gunpoint while systematically violating the foundational laws of the nation they are attacking.

A Crossroads of Empire: The Pending Treaty

Decision Gate



Tyler's Three-Step Proposal for Eradication

Abolish the Monopoly

The Government must immediately cease manufacturing the drug for the express purpose of selling it to those who import it into a helpless country.

Prohibit Cultivation

Not a single poppy should be grown in British India (except for legitimate medicinal purposes). Prevent the cultivation of the 400,000 acres currently used.

Cease Exportation

Prevent the export of Malwa opium from Bombay, gradually putting a stop to this branch of the traffic over a set period (e.g., 10 years).

The Economic Pivot: Replacing Illicit Profit with Legitimate Commerce

The Short-Term Loss



The £3,250,000 net revenue the East India Company would lose.

The Long-Term Gain



Unlocking the vast, untapped market of 400,000,000 Chinese citizens.

The current opium trade drains China of its silver and impoverishes its people, making them unable to buy legitimate British manufactured goods. By stopping the drain of silver and the physical ruin of the population, legitimate trade will rapidly eclipse the drug profits.



The Final Audit: Peace Requires Honour

“So long as the opium stumbling-block remains... the Chinese cannot but look upon us with deep feelings of animosity. It can never be otherwise.”

Three Pillars of Justification:

1. For the sake of humanity.
2. For the cause of legitimate commerce.
3. For the consistency of religious profession and national honour.



1. Enpession allvet ounities to infernating knowifien.
2. constructivs at the duct.
3. Luonless marhus and cause of tarclerative fennre.

**We want Peace, but I want Peace with honour and safety,
Peace with the maintenance of national rights...
and international justice.**

