

Garcia da Orta's *Colloquies on the Simples and Drugs of India* and the European Superiority Complex's Effect on the Perception of Asian Use of Opium and Future Consequences

Henry Lee

The poster presentation focuses on Garcia da Orta and his book *Colloquies on the Simples and Drugs of India*. It explains how the European superiority complex affected da Orta's perception of Asian use of opium, specifically, and how this affected later use of opium, leading to future consequences. Da Orta can be crowned as the ultimate representative of the new movement in the geography of medicine and healing arts in the 16th century. In examining opium use in Asia, he covers how the drug is used recreationally and in medicine. However, in doing so, there are many instances of his European superiority complex shining through his observations, portraying himself in a better light, as well as Europeans as a whole. In addition to addressing aspects of the book, the poster presentation also highlights the future consequences of opium. The conflict between Britain and China in the opium wars is also an example of the European superiority complex over Asia coming into play as China was geographically and financially taken advantage of. The current opioid epidemic plaguing the United States is another example of the effect opium has nowadays, and proof of its impact through history.