



# World-Historical Dataverse: FEATURE PROJECTS IN HISTORICAL DATA

Each year the project concentrates on collecting and displaying historical data on a major commodity: **opium (2010), silver (2011), wheat (2012), rice (2013)**

## Opium (collection year 2010)

- A commodity of great social and economic importance in past and present
- Documented in detail for 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Now illegal, so documentation is no longer available
- Historical studies will provide valuable information on patterns of production, consumption, and trade

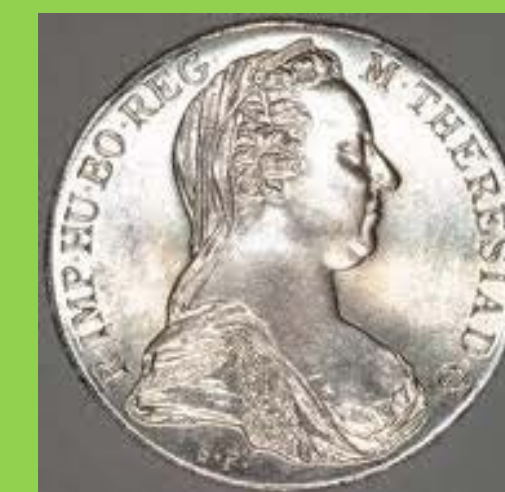


Opium war



## Silver (collection year 2011)

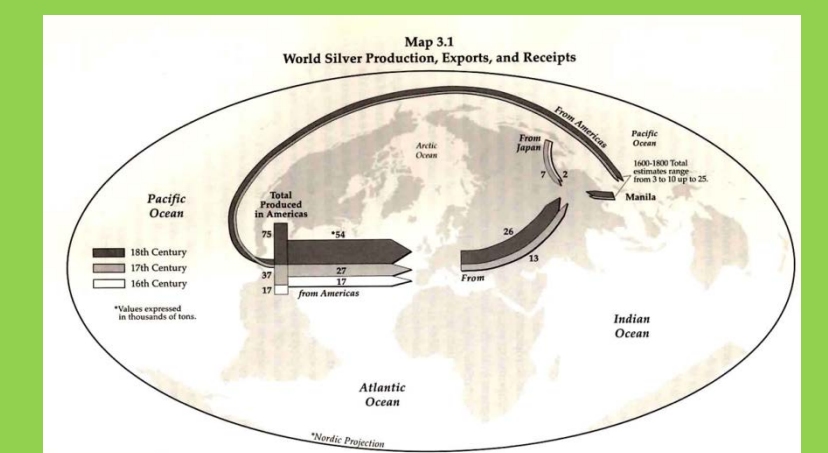
- Silver mines of Potosi (Bolivia) and Zacatecas (Mexico) provided most of the world's silver supply from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- With the Manila galleons from 1571, silver traveled around the world, providing currency for commerce and taxes worldwide, but especially in China.
- Synthesis of worldwide silver flows will provide an approximation of global money supply



Maria Theresa thaler (1780) restamped from a Mexican peso



1869 Mexican peso



## Maps of global silver flows

