

**Contemporary Issues  
in**

# **Islamic Law**

**Abdul Haseeb Ansari**



**Serials**

# **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ISLAMIC LAW**

*Abdul Haseeb Ansari*



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## **Drugs Misuse In Malaysia: Past and Present**

*Abdul Rani Bin Kamarudin*

### **The History of Commercialization of Drug in South-East Asia**

Drug use in Malaysia (then Malaya) dates back to the early nineteenth century with the British presence in the Far East including Malaya.<sup>1</sup> Opium was then an important commodity, the British Company forcefully used in exchange for goods such as spices etc from the Malay Archipelago to be used for purchasing tea from China. The British in India were becoming masters of an empire, and to pay for that empire, they were turning with more and more urgency to the profits of their trade with China, largely tea trade to London. China's enormous population offered the British, unlimited possibilities for its commercial expansion. Chinese junks had before 1819 collected a variety of products from Siam (Thailand), the Malay Peninsula, and the archipelago: rattans, pepper, mother-of-pearl, tins, birds' nest, and betel-nut from Malaya; tin from Bangka island; occasionally, rice from Manilla; and coral, amber, and sandalwood from the Moluccas and Micronesia.<sup>2</sup> To find goods to sell to the Chinese (China) in exchange-pepper and tin in particular—the British moved into South-East Asia.<sup>3</sup> Singapore<sup>4</sup> served as a depot for British goods, principally textiles, metals, Indian opium, and piece-goods for distribution in the Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sulu; pepper, gold, and tin from Pahang and Trengganu; tin from Perak and Selangor;