



Wissenschaftshistorisches Kolloquium des Instituts für Geschichte der Pharmazie und Medizin  
Sommersemester 2023 in Zusammenarbeit mit der DPhG

## "Bio-based Pharmaceutical Innovation in The Netherlands (1880- 1970): Quinine, Cocaine and Morphine as historical case studies"



Foto: Anne Grons

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Pharmazie und Medizin, Roter Graben 10, 35037 Marburg oder online:  
<https://webconf.hrz.uni-marburg.de/b/ann-fpl-gti-rok>

### Abstract

Strongly driven by colonial economic ambitions, a high-quality and commercial kina and coca culture developed in the Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia). The Gouvernements' Kina company started building a colonial network of scientists, planters, state officials and trading companies during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The emphasis within this network was on the improvement and standardization of the quality of the cinchona bark and the coca leaves by means of the laboratory as a quality control instrument. This approach ran parallel to the developments in the German pharmaceutical industry, where the laboratory was given an increasingly central role in the development and production of high-quality medicines. From the 1870s onwards, the German pharmaceutical industry dominated the international trade in quinine, quinine sulphate and cocaine and was leading in the founding of the international quinine and cocaine cartels. In the period 1910-1920 a power shift took place in these international cartels (historically the first pharmaceutical industry cartels) in favor of the Dutch East Indies cinchona and coca producers. This was part of the development of Dutch colonial agro-industrialism and a transoceanic trade network. Furthermore, the outbreak of the First World War led to an economic isolation of the German industry, causing the German pharmaceutical industry to lose control of the production and distribution chains. During the interwar period, the Dutch consolidated their dominance over the international cinchona and coca markets. The political and economic decolonization of Indonesia in the period 1947-1957 brought an abrupt end to this Dutch market dominance.



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Tanja Pommerening und Maïke Rotzoll