The drug conundrum of Sherlock Holmes's secretive habit begins with John Watson's startling question: "Which is it today? Morphine or cocaine?" Among the sixty published adventures of Sherlock Holmes, there are only five passages directly or indirectly alluding to his drug habit. Either in detailed description or in subdued understatements, Holmes's application of drugs have attracted more controversy than their few short lines would appear to merit. This paper attempts to medicalize and contextualize Holmes's contested drug habit and his choice of drugs. Beginning with a textual study of descriptions or inferences of his drug habit, attempts are made to rectify the conception of substances by de-mythicizing, in Susan Sontag's words, its fascination. By differentiating the significance of cocaine, morphine, and opium, this paper reconstructs the masculinity of Sherlock Holmes in an attempt to historicize and de-mythicize the significance of narcotics in the context of medical history. By analyzing the historical background of drug use, this paper attests that Holmes's drug habit does not detract from his image as a hero, but enlarges his image as a man of advanced medical knowledge, self-discipline, and self-control.
Sherlock Holmes, whose mind required constant input of new data and stimulation, would turn to cocaine when he did not have a case and how his mind was a fight against boredom. "My mind rebels at stagnation. Morphine has been mentioned as being one of Holmes' choice drugs when he got bored — although it is never mentioned in any specific story other than The Illustrious Client. We see the ugly side of drugs not only from our experience of seeing drug abuse (drugs done in excess and to addiction) and from what the anti-drug community have circulated through the media. In recent months, this country has taken another look at "illegal drugs" and what it costs to sustain the "war on drugs". Sherlock Holmes as a cocaine user. The first wave of cocaine use occurred in the second half of the nineteenth century (1860-1905). A great number of cocaine enthusiasts, including scientists and medical practitioners, wrote letters, pamphlets and essays about the miraculous properties of the 'divine drug' which excited human imagination and seemed to be a panacea for many ailments, from toothache to hysteria, labour pains, hay fever, and melancholy. Holmes's preferred method of taking the drug is direct injection. It seems that he was not interested in taking cocaine lozenges or drinking Vin Mariani, which contained cocaine. Holmes disregarded the negative physical side effects of cocaine, although he was probably aware of them. Morphine or Cocaine?: Sherlock Holmes and the Social Perception of Drugs. 2013 | journal-article. OTHER-ID: F06BBC70B27D849D85257BF100644936. London is "Waiting for Its Bomb": History, Memory and Fear of Destruction in Ian McEwan's "Saturday". 2012 | journal-article. OTHER-ID: AL:15631796-201206-20121120026-20121120026-105-134. Source: Airiti. Preferred source. London is 'Waiting for Its Bomb': History, Memory and Fear of Destruction in Ian McEwan's Saturday. 2012 | journal-article. OTHER-ID: 9F94A25841E94C5B85257AE7006747F2.